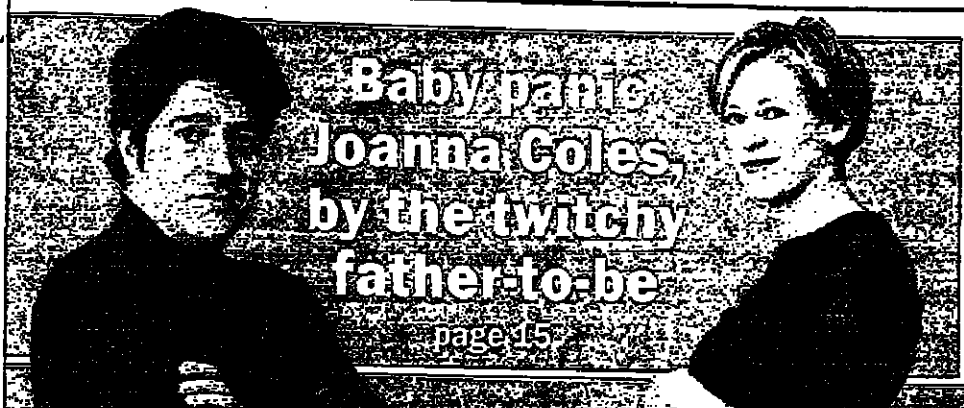
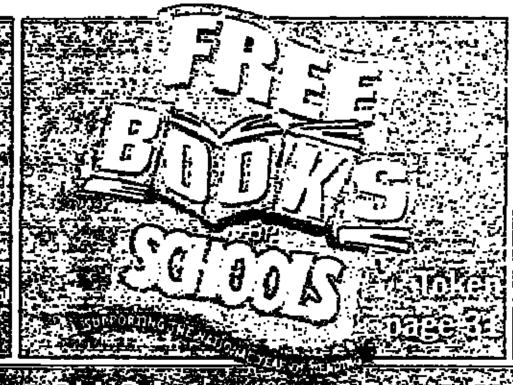
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Hoddle is dismissed for 'serious error'

By Michael Harvey and Adrian Lee

GLENN HODDLE was sacked as England's football coach last night after 36 hours of frantic discussions over his suggestion that the disabled were paying for the sins of a previous life.

The FA told Hoddle that he had damaged himself and his employers by his remarks in an interview with *The Times*, and that his position had become untenable.

Hoddle later admitted that he had made a serious error of judgment that had caused pain to a number of people, for which he apologised.

The end came at 6.54pm when David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive and once Hoddle's staunchest ally, read a statement saying: "With regret, the FA and Glenn Hoddle have today agreed to terminate Glenn's contract.

"After more than 24 hours of meetings and discussions it became apparent to all those concerned that this was the right decision for English football.

"The position had become increasingly untenable for both the FA and for Glenn. He accepts he has made a serious error of judgment and, of course, has apologised.

"The past few days have been painful for everyone involved, but that is as nothing *compared to any offence that* may have been caused to disabled people in our community and in our country. We accept this wasn't Glenn's intention.

"It's unquestionable, though, that the controversy over whatever was or wasn't said had damaged both Glenn and his employers. The FA has rightly considered all the options over recent hours. Glenn has served the England team with dedication and with loyalty. But eventually all parties agreed that this was the correct way forward."

There was a moment of farce when two men, shouting obscenities, interrupted the reading of the statement before being wrestled to the ground by security guards. One, who said he had disabled relatives, said later: "Glenn Hoddle deserves everything he got. He was completely out of order. Glenn Hoddle is a disgrace to English football."



Hoddle leaving his agent's house in London yesterday

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Hoddle later read out a statement saying: "I accept that I made a serious error of judgement in an interview which caused misunderstanding and pain to a number of people. This was never my intention and for this I apologise.

"My sincere thanks for the support from loved ones, family friends and media colleagues who have worked *with me over the past few days* to try and establish the truth.

"My personal thanks go to all my staff, colleagues and in particular the players, with whom I have worked over the past two years. I thank them deeply. My best wishes go to Howard Wilkinson and John Gorman, who take over for the match against France at Wembley this month."

The FA's decision was welcomed by politicians and representatives of the disabled. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, described the sacking as "a personal tragedy" for Hoddle, but said it was the correct decision. "He is a decent man but his views caused distress to many disabled sportsmen and women." Freda Murray, chairwoman of the Disabled Supporters Association, said: "He hurt not just disabled people but their carers and families."

But Hoddle's faith healer, Eileen Drewery complained that he had been hounded from his job. She said: "It has been a complete witchhunt. There is no way, knowing the man I do, that he would ever cause distress to the disabled."

Hoddle had fought doggedly to save his £350,000-a-year job. He spoke at length to the BBC, ITN and Sky, and yesterday morning his agent was still insisting that he was the best man for the job. But despite all denials and claims that he had been misinterpreted, Hoddle was *undone* by 71 words that he made no attempt to explain or clarify.

In his interview, he had said: "You and I have been physically given two hands and two legs and half-decent brains. Some people have not been born like that for a reason. The karma is working from another lifetime. I have nothing to hide about that. It is not only people with disabilities. What you sow you have to reap. You have to look at things that happened in your life and ask why? It comes around."

Peter Stothard, editor of *The Times*, said last night: "It is the right decision by the FA. Both what Hoddle said and the way in which he tried to pretend that he hadn't said it made his position untenable."

PUGH

"Off the record I'd like to talk to you about my football beliefs"

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Zara speaks up for her Dad

By A Correspondent

THE teenage daughter of Glenn Hoddle yesterday pleaded for an end to the "hassle" so that things could get back to normal.

Zara Hoddle, 13, wrote to *BBC's Ceefax* saying: "I am very supportive of disabled people and so is my Dad. But I think this situation is the most pathetic reason for someone to maybe lose their job and to have so much hassle over.

"If you would just take the time to listen to what his explanation is, then maybe you would understand it a bit more. So please consider this from my Dad's point of view and hopefully everything will be back to normal soon."

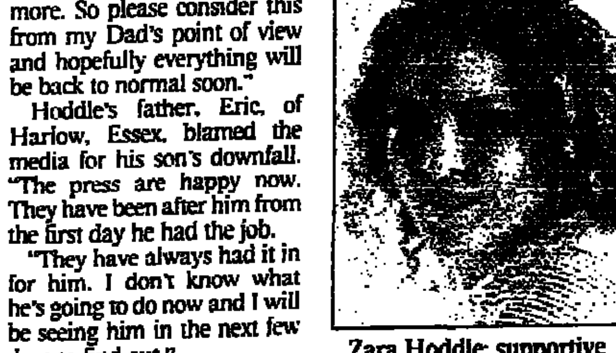
Hoddle's father, Eric, of Harlow, Essex, blamed the media for his son's downfall. "The press are happy now. They have been after him from the first day he had the job.

"They have always had it in for him. I don't know what he's going to do now and I will be seeing him in the next few days to find out."

Hoddle's former wife, Anne, 40, said: "Obviously we are all very sad for Glenn, especially as he has got to face it all in the glare of publicity."

Anne, Zara's mother, said the girl had been taken aback by the interest shown in her letter by the press.

She said: "I don't think she realised how much interest this would attract. She just wanted to show some support for her Dad, that's all."



Zara Hoddle: supportive



Murder victim, Kathryn Linaker, with her husband Chris and children Matthew, 2, and Holly, now four months, at the baby's christening last year

Life for woman who killed for lust

By Russell Jenkins

THE amateur actress Jenny Cupit was jailed for life yesterday for bludgeoning and stabbing to death her lover's wife.

The 24-year-old mother of two changed her plea on the fifth day of her trial at Chester Crown Court and admitted murdering Kathryn Linaker, a 33-year-old deputy headmistress, at her Cheshire home last April.

Cupit, who has a *history of* psychiatric and emotional turmoil, wept uncontrollably as Mr Justice Sachs told her that she was a serial liar who had killed a good woman out of lust for her husband and jealousy for her. And in a clear reference to the dead woman's husband, Chris Linaker, 35, who was sitting in the public gallery, the judge added that nobody could feel anything other than utter revulsion and disgust at the lifestyle of Cupit and her circle of friends.

Cupit had started a 14-month affair with Mr Linaker, a fellow member of Warrington's Centenary Operatic and Dramatic Society, and *had* urged him to leave his wife and two small children and run off with her to Canada.

The court was told that Cupit and Mr Linaker, who liked to videotape their activities, had also invited his brother-in-law and her husband to join them for three-in-a-bed sex sessions.

Mrs Linaker knew nothing of her husband's adultery when Cupit arrived at her home in Penketh and attacked her with a heavy vase, a small kitchen knife she had bought that morning from Asda and a carving knife she had fetched from the kitchen drawer. She then waited up to two hours before raising the alarm.

'No one could fail to feel utter revulsion and disgust at your lifestyle and others of your circle'

Cupit had originally denied murder but had pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. She changed her plea *yesterday as the court was due* to hear evidence of her psychological state.

Mr Justice Sachs told her: "I accept that you had problems in your life, although it is extremely difficult to believe all of what you say. In my view you are a serial liar. Your problems are no worse than hundreds of your fellow human beings who do not behave as you.

"No one hearing the evidence could fail to feel utter revulsion and disgust at your lifestyle and others of your social circle. You must face reality and not fanciful invention.

"You took the life of a blameless and talented young woman of 33 years. The killing was obviously premeditated. It was perpetrated in front of her four-month-old daughter. You left Kathryn Linaker's children without a mother and left *your own children without a* mother for at least a very, very long time.

"Like Kathryn Linaker, these four children are totally innocent as to what you did. Their lives are irreversibly damaged. Goodness knows how they will react when they learn fully what you did on April 17 last year. What you did on that day was an absolute outrage. You killed a good woman out of lust for her husband and jealousy for her."

Earlier Adrian Fulford, QC, for the defence, had sought leniancy for an emotionally and psychiatrically damaged young woman who had been led into a dangerous relationship by an older man.

She had suffered a troubled psychiatric history since the early 1990s, was bulimic and had made at least one suicide attempt.

Mr Fulford also suggested that Mr Linaker should bear a heavy responsibility for what had happened. He knew she was a frightened and insecure young woman yet he had locked her into a highly dangerous *relationship*. "Disaster, but not necessarily this disaster, must have been foreseen on his part," Mr Fulford said.

"This defendant did truly try to get away from this relationship. He, on the other hand, never, ever took steps to persuade her to go away. Quite the contrary. He degraded her. He used her and he, to a very important extent, has brought this young woman to this sad pass."

Mr Linaker declined to comment as he left the court.

Jealous rival, page 3



Jenny Cupit is led from court after being jailed for life

Nanny spared jail over baby

Louise Sullivan, 27, the Australian nanny who shook a six-month-old baby to death, was freed to return to Sydney after a judge ruled that she needed treatment for the mental deficiencies that contributed to the death of Caroline Jongen last April......Page 9

Kosovo talks

The Kosovo Liberation Army said that it would attend the *peace conference planned* to start in Rambouillet, outside Paris, on Saturday, putting pressure on Belgrade to follow suit. The KLA negotiators will be named today...Page 11

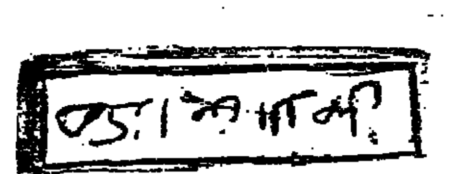
Byers pledge to help bankrupts start over

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Trade and Industry Secretary, Stephen Byers, last night promised bankruptcy laws which were more "enterprise friendly", saying wealth creation was more important than wealth redistribution.

Mr Byers used his first main speech since he succeeded *Peter Mandelson* to argue that helping businesses was compatible with social justice. He announced a working group to look at changes making it easier for "responsible risk takers" whose businesses had failed to start up again.

Speaking at the Lord Mayor's dinner at the Mansion House, Mr Byers said that current bankruptcy laws made no distinction between the risk taker who worked hard but was unsuccessful and "individuals who *deliberately set out to* cheat their creditors or abuse limited liability". It was important to come down hard on those who exploited the system, he added.



'Least said, soonest mended' is Labour's motto of the hour


MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Cynics may sneer that the Government's new presentation strategy means that ministers will only speak to us from Richard and Judy's sofa.

They are wrong. There will be statements in the House too — whenever there is nothing to say.

There was little to say about health yesterday, except on the Government's controversial public sector pay awards. On these, therefore, no statement.

Instead, the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, came to tell MPs about progress on an uncontroversial scheme, NHS Direct, about which there is no news, except that it proceeds.

It aims to provide a telephone service for citizens anxious about their health. Presumably callers will be told to calm down, take a couple of aspirins and on no account bother a doctor.

This was a curtain-raiser to the string of soothing Commons statements now in store: we might call it Government Direct. MPs will be offered a dispatch box aspirin.

So you might as well get used to reports like this: they are the parliamentary future...

Frank Dobson described NHS Direct and told the House that the scheme was being introduced gradually and was going well.

Alan Duncan, Tory spokesman, reminded MPs that it was a Tory idea, and welcomed it.

David Hinchliffe (Lab, Wakefield) welcomed it twice.

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, welcomed it.

Kali Mountford (Lab, Colne Valley) offered the Government her congratulations.

Stephen Dorrell (C, Charnwood) welcomed the news.

Anne Begg (Lab, Aberdeen S) welcomed the news.

The Rev Martin Smyth (UUP, Belfast S) welcomed the news.

Kevin Barron (Lab, Rother Valley) praised the scheme, offering it a warm welcome.

John Bercow (C, Buckingham) welcomed it.

Evan Harris (Lib Dem, Oxford W & Abingdon) congratulated the Government.

Phyllis Starkey (Lab, Milton Keynes SW) welcomed the news.

But enough. Dobson himself said it all when, greeted by an "Ah!" from the opposition benches, he asked Madam Speaker whether she remembered ("as a lass") the doctor's instructions to "open your mouth and say 'Ah'".

"Too long ago," said Betty, sadly. Not so. Dr New Labour was asking MPs to open their mouths and say "Ah". And they did.

But at Points of Order, John Maples, Tory Defence spokesman, was disinclined to say "Ah". He protested that ministers now refuse to explain their travel expenses. Madam Speaker said there was nothing she could do.

Half an hour later, Sir Edward Heath, too, was declining to say Ah. Debating the Government's proposals for constitutional reform, he accused Tony Blair of pursuing a strategy to turn the Commons by stealth into "a daytime occupation" — ruling out those with outside interests. They wanted to create "a mass of stooges," grunted Sir Edward. "They want to cast us off."

John Major agreed. He accused the Government of contempt for dissent. Half the week, now, he said, Parliament had become "derelict, powerless, pointless and empty". "Liberty needs protection from democracy."

A leading member of Labour's awkward squad, Andrew Mackinlay (Thurrock) remained unwilling to let the Ahs have it. He interrupted Peter Mandelson (speaking with poise from the back benches). Under the Government's proposals, he asked, "how would you get loose cannons, the bloody-minded, the awkward, the irritants" into an Upper Chamber?

You could the Mandelson brain whirr. "And out from under my feet," he thought. "I entirely agree," he told Mackinlay, "the bloody-minded should have their place in the Lords."

Lord Mackinlay of Thurrock? Ah!

Doctor wants birth control given in school

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

A LEADING gynaecologist was yesterday criticised after he suggested that teenage girls be fitted with a new device that will stop them having a baby for three years.

John Guillebaud, medical director of the Margaret Pyke Family Planning Centre in London, said the girls could be fitted with the device at the same time as they were given their rubella vaccination.

"In the future, and as a social policy, when you have an area with a huge rate of teenage pregnancies you could go into a school, obviously with the consent of the parents, and fit this device so that everybody would start out not being able to have a baby," he said.

The device is an Implanton, manufactured by the Dutch company Organon, which was given its European licence just before Christmas. It is a tiny rod, fitted under the skin of the arm, which secretes a hormone that prevents pregnancy. It can be removed if the woman decides she wants to become pregnant.

Professor Guillebaud said the fact that the device was "forgettable" made it ideal for use by young women who tended not to remember to take the Pill and who did not want to be fitted with a coil. Girls are given their German measles vaccination when they are around 12 or 13, and Professor Guillebaud said this could be an opportunity to fit the Implanon rod.

Alison Hadley, national policy officer of the Brook Advisory Bureau, the main advisory bureau on sexual matters for teenagers, said: "This approach is open to eugenics. We don't want a scenario where girls are fitted with these things just because they have a tendency to get pregnant.

"To do that would be disrespectful to them and it ignores the fact that these devices give no protection against sexually-transmitted disease.

"The correct approach to this is to be open with the girls, discuss the question of sex properly with them and give them the fullest education on the subject. These devices should only be used after the fullest discussion with the girl. Young people need to take a positive attitude to sex, not a negative or passive one."

Ann Weyman, chief executive of the Family Planning Association, was also critical of Professor Guillebaud's ideas. "It is more a question of young women having the self-confidence to take control of their lives and make responsible decisions about relationships," she said. "Contraception has to be viewed within this broader context."

Valerie Riches, deputy director of the pressure group Family Youth Concern, said: "I think the whole idea is repugnant. It will give youngsters the go-ahead to engage in sexual intercourse at an even earlier age and will make them more vulnerable to exploitation. It will not protect them from sexually-transmitted diseases and could be very destructive to later relationships. I find the concept alarming."

Yvonne Stayt, of the pressure group Concern for Family and Womanhood said: "To have a hormone implanted into your daughters at the same time as a rubella jab seems absolutely abhorrent.

"It is very much more important that girls and boys are taught about not having sex outside marriage than how to have sex before they are even over the age of consent."

Professor Guillebaud has been a consistent advocate of new methods of contraception and has often been outspoken on the need to prevent young girls becoming pregnant.

Rival says Sarwar tried to buy lies

THE Labour MP Mohammed Sarwar offered to give a political rival £5,000 if he would swear a false statement before lawyers, a court was told yesterday.

The MP held up five fingers as he tried to persuade Badar Islam to swear on oath that another candidate was to blame for voter registration irregularities, it was alleged at the High Court in Edinburgh.

Mr Islam said that the "angry" MP had made the offer after newspaper stories appeared a few weeks after the general election about campaign irregularities in Glasgow Govan.

Mr Islam, who stood as an Independent Labour candidate, said that about two weeks earlier Mr Sarwar had told him "I will do something for you" if Mr Islam pulled out of the campaign.

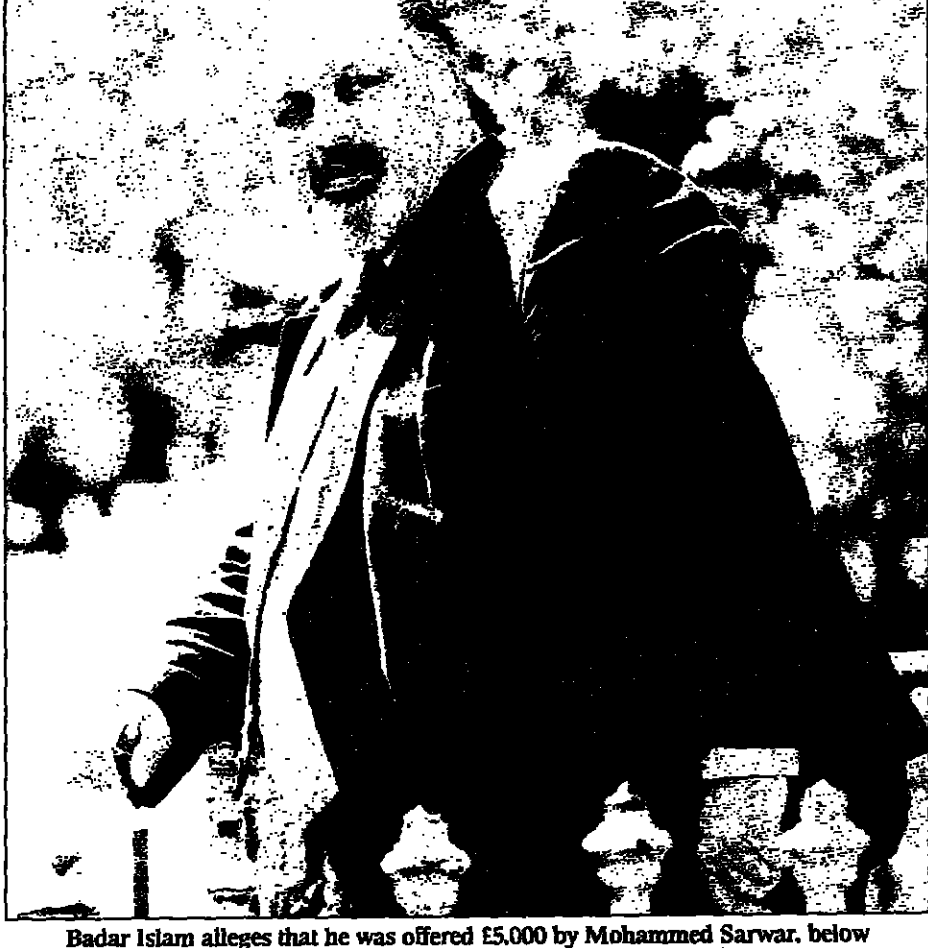
Mr Sarwar, 46, of Glasgow, denies two charges of attempting to pervert the course of justice, fraud relating to the addition of four names on the electoral register, and understating election expenses.

Mr Islam, 49, a former professional cricketer and twice-bankrupted businessman, said that Mr Sarwar first asked him to drop his independent campaign when they met at Glasgow Airport a week before the election. At a second meeting, he said, Mr Sarwar again asked him to ease off electioneering. Mr Islam said that he felt he would benefit if he did as Mr Sarwar asked, but instead stepped up his campaign. He said that after the election, Mr Sarwar persuaded him to make a false statement, to be used within the Labour Party, blaming the candidate Peter Paton for voter registration irregularities and saying that Mr Sarwar had nothing to do with it.

Mr Islam said in court that he did so because Mr Sarwar was the first Muslim MP, but soon after Mr Sarwar asked him to swear a false affidavit before lawyers, which Mr Islam would not do.

At another airport meeting Mr Sarwar again tried to persuade Mr Islam, the court was told. Mr Islam said the MP held his palm up displaying five fingers. He said that when he asked what Mr Sarwar meant, he replied: "Five thousand I give you for a statement." Mr Islam said: "I told him I didn't want the money."

The trial continues.


Badar Islam alleges that he was offered £5,000 by Mohammed Sarwar, below



Farmers attack EU grant cuts as dishonest

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

FARMERS' leaders yesterday accused Brussels of misleading taxpayers with a claim that planned cuts in European farm subsidies would knock up to £1.2 billion a year off food prices in the shops.

Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, made the claim in an address to a thousand delegates attending the annual general meeting of the National Farmers' Union in London.

Herr Fischler said that the proposed reform would initially increase the total size of the European Union's £28 billion annual farm budget but claimed that this would be a price worth paying in the long run.

"Governments have to realise that if they want a fitter, leaner, more competitive agricultural sector, then it is going to cost money," he said. "On the other hand, the reform will bring a major overall economic gain both to farming and to consumers.

"Independent studies have shown a potential saving of up to £1.2 billion per annum by the year 2005 if farm-gate prices fall by the full percentage of the proposed reduction and if they are passed on."

Under the current reform proposals, part of a wider overhaul of EU finances known as Agenda 2000, the minimum prices guaranteed to farmers for milk, cereals and beef would be slashed by between 15 and 30 per cent.

These are the prices of which the EU intervenes to buy up farm produce when market demand is weak, a system that has led to the creation of unwanted stockpiles of surplus food. The reforms are intended to eliminate surpluses by forcing farmers to sell their produce at world market prices.

Ben Gill, the NFU's president, said Herr Fischler's claims were "misleading and dishonest," because any gains from price cuts would be largely absorbed by food processors and distributors before they reached the consumer. "The price cuts will not get beyond the farm-gate," he said. "At best they might mean that food prices in the shops would rise more slowly than they otherwise would have done."

Inmate seizes officer

By Paul Wilkinson

A MAN dubbed Britain's most dangerous prisoner was last night holding a prison officer hostage inside a special unit for troublesome inmates.

Charles Bronson, 45, an 18-stone body-builder, has spent 25 years in jail for violent offences: 21 of them have been in solitary confinement. During that time he has attacked 25 prison officers and been involved in 10 sieges.

The latest started on Monday afternoon in the close supervision centre in Hull prison. The unit, which accommodates up to 10 prisoners in separate cells, is one of four in England and Wales for controlling inmates with disruptive reputations.

A Prison Service spokesman said yesterday that there was an "on-going" incident involving a prisoner and a member of staff in the Hull unit. "Staff are talking to the prisoner in an attempt to resolve the situation," he said. "The incident is confined to the CRC and the rest of the prison is calm and operating normally."

Bronson, who changed his name from Michael Peterson to that of the star of the *Death Wish* series of films, was originally jailed in 1974 for eight years for firearms offences. His sentence has regularly been extended for violence, assault and kidnapping other inmates. He earned the nickname Cannibal after threatening to eat some of the prisoners he took captive during a seige in 1996 at Bellmarsh jail in South London.

He has taken hostages twice before. In 1994 he briefly held Hull's deputy governor, Adrian Wallace, threatening to break his neck if his demands were not met; in 1993 he held a librarian captive for 14 hours.

Bronson: an 18-stone body builder

Doctors attack 'false' pay scale

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

DOCTORS' leaders yesterday accused the Government of "massaging" the figures on their new pay scales to give a misleading impression that they were earning far more than they actually are.

The pay scales, published in *The Times*, were taken from the Health Department's press release on the settlement, which was worth 3.5 per cent for most doctors. The rates shown, however, were only for the very maximum rates that doctors in the different grades could earn and then only after being paid maximum overtime.

The rates given for the most junior house officer grade showed that they were earning £25,512 at present and that this would rise to £26,405 from next April. In fact the basic salary rate for the grade is only £16,145 at present and this will rise to £16,710.

Andrew Hobart, chairman of the British Medical Association's junior doctors' committee, said: "This manipulation of the figures is cynical and exploitative. Junior doctors saw pay figures flashing up on to TV screens which they just did not recognise and the mistake is repeated all over the newspapers."

The tables are based on the maximum earning figures for a 72-hour working week, but junior doctors only get paid half the normal hourly rate for working compulsory overtime at weekends, nights and on holidays. The tables for senior grades were also for the maximum possible rates. This put the consultant scale at £61,605, when the starting rate for the grade is £47,345.

The BMA says that there are two reasons for the Government issuing only the maximum consultants level. Consultants at the top of the scale get an extra £500 which takes their award to 4.3 per cent, and the second is "they want to inflate consultant salaries for public relations purposes".

The new basic pay scales from April 1 are a minimum of £16,710 and a maximum of £18,860 for a house officer; £20,845-£27,845 senior house officer; £23,300-£25,265 registrars; £26,840-£33,965 senior registrar; £23,300-£33,965 specialist registrar; £47,345-£61,605 consultant; and £64,608-£73,925 for distinction awards.

'We simply cannot understand how any human being could do this to another'


Kathryn Linaker's twin sister Fiona and parents Sheila and Ken Pearson at a press conference yesterday

Parents say they feel no hatred for their daughter's killer

THE FAMILY

By Russell Jenkins

THE parents of Kathryn Linaker spoke last night of their struggle to understand why their daughter was savagely murdered after she had apparently found happiness in her family and her career.

Mrs Linaker's father Ken Pearson, 65, and his wife Sheila, who live in Rainhill, Merseyside, spoke movingly of Kathryn, 33, shortly after they watched Jenny Cupit start a life sentence for her murder.

They described their daughter as a wonderful mother of Matthew, who was two years old, and Holly, only four months, when she was killed last April.

Talented and beautiful, Mrs Linaker was combining motherhood with a blossoming career as a teacher and an author. She was hoping that her acting deputy headship at St James's Primary School, Haydock, would be confirmed. She had written resource information books for teachers and two series of work-books for nursery children.

Mr Pearson, who had followed every day of the trial from the public gallery, said: "It [the trial] showed that Kathy was blameless and was, in fact, the innocent victim of this whole tragic situation.

"As far as Jenny Cupit is concerned, we simply cannot understand how any one human being could do this to another, and particularly someone who would want to help. We certainly do not feel anger and we do not feel hatred. We simply cannot relate to someone who behaves in this manner."

Mr and Mrs Pearson and Kathryn's twin sister Fiona are anxious not to upset the delicate family balance. They refuse to talk about Kathryn's husband Chris, who was exposed in court as a philandering adulterer.

Mr Pearson said: "After the tragedy, Chris and the children went to live with his parents." They explained that Mrs Linaker had worked full-time "and the pattern of child care was well established. Two days a week the children were with us, one day with Chris's parents, and two days in the nursery.

"Chris has endeavoured to maintain this. With love and affection, I am sure that he has helped them through this time."

Mrs Pearson said that they had felt compelled to attend the trial each day, despite having to steel themselves to the horror. "We had to know the truth so that we could both learn to live with it and eventually hope perhaps to understand why it happened. Also, because we were not with Kathryn when she died, we wanted to reassure ourselves that she was unconscious for most of this vicious attack and she would not have been aware of what was happening."

The family said that they wanted to convey Kathryn's many qualities as a wife, a mother, a teacher, a musician and "as a person", which was why they had spoken publicly.


Kathryn Linaker on her graduation day

Meanwhile, the family hope to take an active role in the children's upbringing. Matthew, said Mrs Pearson, is at a delightful and inquisitive age where he can take joy from simple things, like a trip to the library or to feed the ducks in the park. "All the things that children do," said Mrs Pearson. "It helped us over the last few months to be able to do that with him."

When Kathryn died, said Mr Pearson, the children at her school wrote many letters to them full of affection for their missing teacher.

"It would come out that she was always smiling, always happy, always prepared to play little games with them," said Mr Pearson. "She was just that kind of person."

Mrs Pearson said she would remember how her daughter would return from work, pop her head round the door and happily call out "hello". Matthew would come running to her and give her a big hug.

Kathryn's twin sister Fiona Gent, an accountant, said: "I most miss her sense of humour. She had a knack of finding the funny side and she adored my children. She spent hours chasing them around the garden. She was just one of those people who could relate to adults and children.

"She was a beautiful woman and a loving person. She will remain in the hearts of everyone who knew her."

JULIAN HAMILTON


Jenny Cupit, who yesterday admitted murdering Kathryn Linaker, is led away from Chester Crown Court

Jealous rival finally took centre stage in tragedy

THE KILLER

JENNY CUPIT always coveted one of the big parts in the shows put on by the Centenary Operatic and Dramatic Society.

She watched enviously from the chorus line in *The Sound of Music, Camelot, Broadway Nights, The King and I* and *Annie* as others took the applause. One of the leading actresses was Kathryn Linaker, the wife of her lover.

It was the beginning of a consuming jealousy that led to Mrs Linaker's murder in a ferocious assault.

Like Cupit, Kathryn Linaker, 33, was a member of the circle whose social life revolved around the the local drama society in Warrington, Cheshire, with its theatrical passions, crises and scandals. Outwardly, the two women, and their husbands, became a firm foursome. However, in social class and emotions, they were very different.

The drama group, which once featured Sporty Spice among its members, is a well respected society that was launched in the early 1900s by workers at the town's Crossfield factory. After rehearsals, the aspiring actors and actresses would relax and enjoy a drink at the nearby Bowling Green Hotel.

Cupit, a hairdresser, was insecure, obsessed about her appearance and desperate to be the centre of attention. She also had a dual personality: she could be bubbly, outgoing and the life and soul of the party; at other times, and for long periods, she appeared moody, withdrawn and prone to irrational emotional outbursts. Whatever her mood, she liked to flutter around men, flirting with them outrageously.

Members of the dramatic society said she was always anxious to move to centre stage from her habitual place as a chorus line dancer. She once threw a tantrum when she failed to win a part.

Jenny Cupit was born Jennifer Lythgoe and grew up in modest circumstances in Warrington. She had an undistinguished academic record at Appleton High School. She was said to have been desperately upset by the break-up of her parents, Paul, a fire safety officer, and Sheila.

She was in her teens when she joined a dance troupe in Warrington run by Nick Cupit. She moved in with him and they already had an 11-month-old daughter, Laura, when they married at St Andrew's Church, Orford. She was 19.

They lived in a £40-a-week council house, struggling to make ends meet on Mr Cupit's modest salary as a computer sales administrator. She was trying to start up a mobile hairdressing business.

After the birth of their second child, the marriage foundered. Cupit later told police during interviews that her husband had wanted an "open marriage" so that each could pursue other relationships. He had urged her to go to clubs where they could meet like-minded couples.

Sally Alcock, Mrs Linaker'ssister-in-law, said that society members thought of Cupit, 24, as a woman with deep-seated psychological problems. Barbara Cupit, her mother-in-law, said: "She was two people. She became a very different girl. I don't know her anymore."

Her moods worsened after the birth of her second baby, Benjamin, in June 1995, when she developed bulimia. She would faint during rehearsals, ensuring that she became the centre of attention.

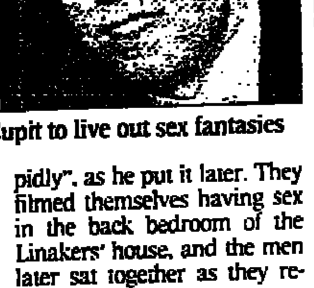
When her jealousy finally overwhelmed her, Cupit ambushed Mrs Linaker at her home. In a rage, she beat her over the head with a vase. As the stricken woman collapsed into the lounge, Cupit stabbed her in the back with a Kitchen Devil knife in a blow that may have paralysed her. Then, leaving bloody footprints on the carpet, she went to the kitchen for a carving knife, which she plunged at least three times into her victim's stomach.

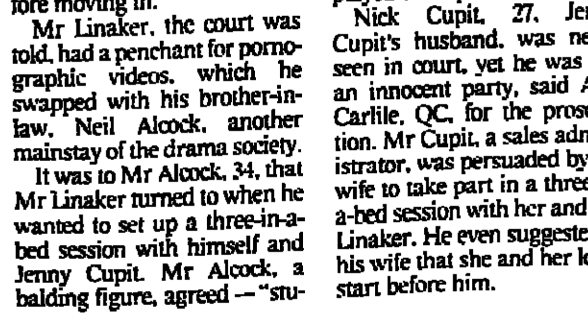
Cupit watched Mrs Linaker die and then waited up to two hours before calling her in-laws to tell them: "Kathy's dead." They found her standing in the hallway comforting the dead woman's baby with a bottle of milk.

Husband told that he shares the blame

THE MEN




Mr Linaker, left, Mr Cupit and Mr Alcock all used Jenny Cupit to live out sex fantasies



AS CHRIS LINAKER sat in the public gallery watching his former lover being sent to jail for life, he also heard scathing criticism of his own role in his wife's death.

The slightly rotund, unremarkable figure was shunned by his wife's family, who were sitting nearby. Mr Linaker emerges from the court case as a philanderer who betrayed his talented and innocent wife.

He pursued a younger, volatile lover for his own sexual gratification, playing a leading role in the drama that led to his wife's murder. He was still seeking sex from Jenny Cupit — by then an unstable, desperate woman begging him to leave his wife and family — in a car park on the day before her murder.

Cupit's lawyer, Adrian Fulford, QC, said that Mr Linaker had known that Cupit was a frightened and insecure young woman and yet had "locked her into a highly dangerous relationship".

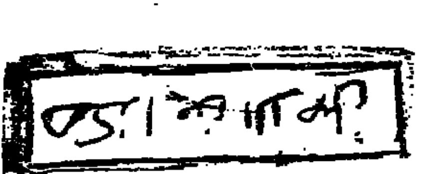
He added: "He degraded her. He used her and he, to a very important extent, has brought this young woman to this sad pass."

Mr Linaker, 35, has lost his wife, his reputation and his job and has been forced to sell his house in Warrington. The couple who bought it asked a priest to bless the property before moving in.

Mr Linaker, the court was told, had a penchant for pornographic videos, which he swapped with his brother-in-law, Neil Alcock, another mainstay of the drama society.

It was to Mr Alcock, 34, that Mr Linaker turned to when he wanted to set up a three-in-a-bed session with himself and Jenny Cupit. Mr Alcock, a balding figure, agreed — "stupidly", as he put it later. They filmed themselves having sex in the back bedroom of the Linakers' house, and the men later sat together as they replayed the tape.

Nick Cupit, 27, Jenny Cupit's husband, was never seen in court, yet he was not an innocent party, said Alex Carlile, QC, for the prosecution. Mr Cupit, a sales administrator, was persuaded by his wife to take part in a three-in-a-bed session with her and Mr Linaker. He even suggested to his wife that she and her lover start before him.



Success gives king of kitsch a bad taste

Simon de Bruxelles meets the entrepreneur who made road kill collectible

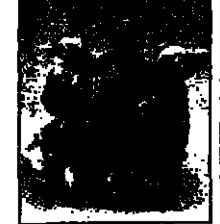
WHEN Martin Perry, a former shepherd, began making trinket boxes in his garden shed four years ago, he had no idea that he would find himself trapped as the creator of the world's fastest-growing line of collectables.

Today he employs 400 people and has an annual turnover of £16.5 million, but Mr Perry is a reluctant entrepreneur and is finding it difficult to come to terms with the success of his kitsch creations.

His company, Harmony Kingdom, which is based in Stroud, Gloucestershire, is still largely unknown in Britain. Among collectors in the United States his boxes are as popular as Beanie Babies and Swarovski crystal. Rare boxes, many of them featuring small furry animals and secret symbols, change hands for thousands of dollars and collectors' clubs have sprung up across the country. All of which has taken Mr Perry completely by suprise.

His reaction to his success has been a very English one. Instead of rejoicing in his astonishing sales figures — like his dealers in the US — he has introduced a range of "Black Boxes", which parody the saccharine cuteness of his other creations.

The latest, titled *Road Kill*, is a tasteless "tribute" to Diana, Princess of Wales, and other celebrities who have died in car accidents. All 5,000 copies of the limited edition box were sold on the day of release, but many who bought the £28 limited edition resin box will never realise the significance of its symbolism.




The "Diana" squirrel, left, and other figurines. Collectors have set up websites to monitor prices

A tableau depicts squashed animals with tyre tracks across their bodies. They sit playing harps on clouds on which are etched names of, among others, James Dean, Mary Jo Kopechne — who drowned in a car driven by Edward Kennedy — and Princess Grace of Monaco. Among them is a squirrel holding up the number plate of the car in which the Princess of Wales died.

Such tackiness has earned him detractors, but Mr Perry is unabashed. "Part of our line is deliberately tasteless. The market that we are in is generally syrupy sweet, full of cutesy teddy bears and sentimental dollies," he said.

"It is appallingly horrible to my eye so, since we find ourselves in a market that we never really intended to get into, we also do some deliberate parodies. The number plate was not going to increase sales, it would have sold out anyway. It was just put there because it was tasteless."

The Americans did not take immediately to the Black Box line. The first featured a vulture eating a blood-dripping heart but was rejected as "insensitive and objectionable" by US dealers. Two years later, however, it was released in a limited edition of 3,600, selling at £24 each. Collectors are now paying up to £100.

Mr Perry, 50, said that he and his wife, Corinna, a former teacher, were both amazed at the success of Harmony Kingdom."It's quite astonishing how the business has taken off," he said. "To begin with it was just a man in his shed. It was exciting and extremely surprising to be so successful so quickly, particularly since this kind of success was never sought.

"I was spotted by an American marketing man right at the beginning and my work went straight to the USA, where it was so successful that we have been struggling ever since to keep up with demand.

"I am not an ambitious person at all and I never envisaged this happening. The whole thing has been led by the consumer."

Harmony Kingdom now has manywebsites devoted to its collection of 200 boxes, including "chat rooms" in which enthusiasts meet and a site for Harmony Collectors Anonymous. The second-hand market in HK boxes is closely monitored on other sites. The record price for one of Mr Perry's products is £1,830 for an item which probably originally cost less than £30.

The company has been so successful that part of its production has been transferred to China. In an apologetic message to collectors on the Harmony Kingdom website, Mr Perry tells them that he has been unable to find and train enough workers in Britain.

"Had anyone told me four years ago that I would now be managing a large factory and all that that entails, I would never have left my garden shed," he said.

"I don't think I am particularly good at managing a factory. What we are good at is designing. What still gets the adrenaline pumping is the thought of all the things we could be creating."



Mr Perry works on a Natty Fatty figurine, a parody of "syrupy sweet sentimental dollies"

Rooftop stand-off after man is stabbed

By Peter Foster

A MENTALLY disturbed man who allegedly stabbed a friend in the chest on a rooftop was last night still refusing to give himself up to police.

Patrick McNeill, 33, has been defying police negotiators since the stabbing early on Sunday morning. Yesterday evening they seemed no nearer to resolving the standoff in Leicester city centre.

A no-fly zone has been declared over the area by the Civil Aviation Authority at the request of police after Mr McNeill became "particularly distressed and angry" when a light aircraft circled low over the scene. Belgrave Road, one of the main trunk routes through the city, has been closed and there was chaos last night as police diverted traffic.

During the day supplies of chocolate, cigarettes and hot drinks were ferried up to Mr McNeill on a fire service hoist. He was perched on the parapet of the Mumbai Blues restaurant, rocking to and fro and clearly in a distressed state of mind.

It is understood that Mr McNeill, who was recently released from a mental hospital in Leicester, fled to the rooftop after a domestic argument. According to a police source, the situation turned violent when a friend of Mr McNeill's, Andrew McLean, tried to reason with him. Mr McLean, 34, was last night in a stable but serious condition in hospital after being stabbed five times in the chest before being rescued from the roof by fire crews.

Yesterday, questions were being asked about the role of police in allowing Mr McLean to go on to the roof. A senior police source said: "There will be a major investigation into how this happened. The internal inquiry will have to examine the decisions taken."

Last night, it appeared that Mr McNeill was destined to spend his third night on the 90ft building, although police psychiatrists continued to talk to him through a mobile telephone sent up earlier.

Dramatic change as Radio 3 goes back upmarket

By Adam Sherwin

A COMMITMENT to drama will be the key factor in a revamp of the Radio 3 schedules, the network's new Controller announced yesterday.

Roger Wright, who took over as Controller three months ago, promised to broadcast the best of British drama, when he unveiled his first programme schedules, and said that there would be more broadcasts of live music and of recorded performances.

By concentrating on drama and live music, Mr Wright hopes to differentiate Radio 3 from Classic FM. "Live broadcasts are so much more interesting than simply playing CDs," said Mr Wright.

After complaints from long-time Radio 3 listeners that the station was being "dumbed down" in a search for new audiences, Mr Wright has introduced changes that have largely confirmed his reputation as a "highbrow".

The offerings include a new production of Strindberg's *The Father* and Howard Barker's *House of Correction* with Juliet Stevenson. Mr Wright said: "I want to draw more attention to the long-form drama and new writing that we broadcast."

The tenth anniversary of Samuel Beckett's death will be marked by a week of programmes; and a weekend marking the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth, and a Pushkin night, are also scheduled. "The percentage of speech in relation to music will probably go up across the network," said Mr Wright.

After listeners had expressed unhappiness about the changes to the morning schedule introduced by Mr Wright's predecessor, from August music performances will be broadcast between 11:30am and 1:00pm every weekday, replacing *Artist of the Week* and *Sound Stories*. *Composer of the Week* will return to the 9am slot from which it had controversially been shifted to noon.

"That will bring joy to some quarters, who said *Composer Of The Week* should never have moved," he observed, "but I will get letters from some people who say: 'I can no longer have my lunch to *Composer Of The Week*.' Such are the problems of a Radio 3 Controller."

Night Waves, the Radio 3 arts discussion and review programme, will be extended to four nights a week.

Mr Wright is particularly pleased to be broadcasting WOMAD, the July festival of world music and dance in Reading. "I want people to hear more world music. We would have covered the whole thing live but there is this thing called the Proms at the same time," he said.

Jocelyn Hay, chairman of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer group, who had accused BBC radio of going downmarket, welcomed Mr Wright's schedule. "This sounds like a raising of standards and it makes a welcome departure. The change of emphasis is exciting."

Classic FM has 5.2 million listeners a week compared to Radio 3's 2.5 million, recent figures show. Listening figures to be released by tomorrow are expected to show increases for both Radio 3 and Classic FM.

A spokesman for Radio 3 added: "High culture is at the core of our broadcasting. We are not competing at all with Classic FM."

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Briton 'cut Miami rival's throat'

From David Adams in Miami

A BRITISH fashion photographer may face the electric chair after being charged with cutting a man's throat in a Florida bar.

Detectives say that Martin Smith, 30, was armed with a knife when he walked up to Steve Burke, who was sitting at the Miami Beach bar talking to a woman. The police report on Mr Smith's arrest for the murder of Mr Burke, an American employee of the Cleveland Bar and Grill, says that he "was observed by witnesses as he grabbed the victim around the head, pulling his head back and then used the knife to cut the victim's throat".

Mr Smith dropped the knife and tried to walk out of the bar on the Ocean Drive seafront but was seized by staff, police say. The victim died before he could receive medical attention. Police suspect jealousy as the motive for the attack, which was allegedly recorded on surveillance cameras at 6am local time on Monday. The bar had been full of Super Bowl fans celebrating the end of the football series.

Mr Smith, who has been living in Miami Beach as a freelance fashion photographer, is reported to have confessed. He has been charged with first degree murder, which in Florida carries the death penalty.

Tiny: barking brought help

Dog saves owner injured in cliff fall

By Paul Wilkinson

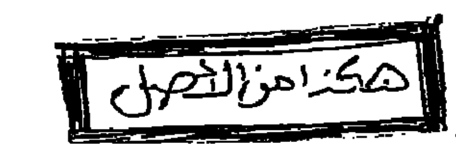
A PET terrier saved its owner yesterday after she had spent a night lying injured in near-freezing temperatures after a fall from 40ft cliffs.

For more than ten hours the dog refused to leave Patricia Windsor, 63, as she lay semiconscious on sand at the foot of Flamborough Head in East Yorkshire. Eventually its barking attracted the attention of three fishermen as they prepared their boat for sea early yesterday.

Last night Mrs Windsor, a widow from Flamborough, was recovering in hospital and Tiny, a West Highland white, was in police kennels.

"He certainly saved her, she is a very lucky lady," said Norman Emmerson, one of the fishermen who found Mrs Windsor.

An RAF helicopter flew her to Hull Royal Infirmary where last night she was reported to be in stable condition with back and leg injuries and hypothermia.



His faith let him make his own rules

Glenn Hoddle's belief in his own infallibility led to his demise, says Simon Barnes

WE ARE supposed to live in a secular age, but Glenn Hoddle stands as living proof that religion is still one of the most dangerous things in life. He becomes the first person to lose his position in public life on a point of theology since Archbishop Cranmer — but at least Hoddle has escaped burning.

"I go to church on Sundays," Hoddle wrote in one of the volumes of his ghosted oeuvre, *Spurred to Success*. "But I don't feel as though I have to go to church every single Sunday — I would be letting myself and my faith down."

Quite so. The structure that governs the life of an ordinary believer is not for Hoddle. He has always been a special person, with a special faith: one that entitles him to make up the rules as he goes along. Marriage vows: what are they to the likes of Hoddle? "My faith in God has made me a more caring, compassionate person."

Now it is a fact of life that if you become a Roman Catholic, you have very little chance of becoming Pope. The odds are stacked against you. The only sure way to be a Pope is to make up your own religion. You are by definition the head of it. And if you are right, then by definition, everybody else is wrong. Nice feeling.

Thus you become Pope of your own autocephalous church. Hoddle has mixed a spot of Christianity with a bit of Hinduism, a strictly personal theory of reincarnation, a fair amount of New Agery and various heeby-jeeberies: and Bob's you uncle. Or rather, Glenn's your Pope.

But the fact is that the rest of the world was frustratingly slow to grasp Hoddle's qualities of infallibility. He was the best footballer in England in the 1980s, but the then England manager, Bobby Robson built his team around the more humdrum virtues of Bryan Robson.

Hoddle played 55 times for England amd it should have been 100. Always he played with courage: not the physical aggression that people misunderstand by the term, but the courage to draw all eyes to himself: to risk the humiliating error in pursuit of victory and glory. Criticised as a Fancy Dan footballer, Hoddle was in fact as hard-nosed an individual as you can find on a football field. His hardness was all mental. But his gifts were regarded with suspicion as well as awe, and he went into management with the sour taste of frustration in his mouth. The trouble with team games is that an individual is not in control of his destiny. Now it was time to seize that control.

It was reckoned that Hoddle's greatest achievement as Swindon Town manager was to pick himself, and as manager of Chelsea, to pick Ruud Gullitt. Not the whole truth: Hoddle gave both his club sides a sense of his own self-belief. Hoddle believed he was destined for greatness; therefore his teams must have a touch of greatness. And to an extent, they did. Football management is about the art of belief.

Then the job of England coach fell vacant. Hoddle was a 20-1 shot, but he got it. He was the only contender with the self-belief to think he could pull it off.

It is a law of sport: every person who takes on the job of England coach or manager ends up standing before the world exactly as he is. The scoundrel and the fool that hide within are invariably revealed for us, along with the liar, the fudger, the prevaricator, the phoney, the weasel and the plain inadequate.

Hoddle seemed to have the toughness to cope. And yes, he had his moment of infallibility. His England team settled the question of qualification to the World Cup finals with a tactically brilliant draw in Italy: a unified team, playing to a clear and correct strategy.

> ‘After the World Cup he acquired a reverse Midas touch: everything he touched was turning to ordure’

But in the hour of his greatest triumph lay the seeds of his downfall. It always does. Hoddle dumped his wife and family the day after the Italy match. Christian decency is not a relevant matter to someone who makes up religion as he goes along. His wife divorced him on the ground of adultery.

We must now turn to Eileen. Eileen Drewery, faithhealer. Hoddle met her after picking up her daughter in a pub. Drewery won his awed respect by sorting out a troubled hamstring by the power of prayer. It was a defining experience.

This unholy marriage of — to use the term loosely — minds gave Hoddle's life direction, energy, purpose, meaning, and reality. It made him infallible. It led him to the disaster he now finds himself in. The presence of Drewery in the England camp was helpful to some players. But not all. And the vital importance of Drewery to Hoddle himself was utterly divisive.

Perhaps it is about time we talked about football, because, strange to say, football does play a part in this bizarre story. So why did Hoddle go out of his way to criticise Michael Owen before the World Cup? Owen had obvious talent and a precociously mature temperament. "Not a natural goalscorer," Hoddle said.

Hoddle took agin: and there was something almost wilfully self-destructive in Hoddle's stance. The fundamental error of the World Cup campaign was not the defeat by Argentina, but the defeat by Romania.

Teddy Sheringham, preferred to Owen, contributed little. Owen came on as a late substitute to score a spectacular goal. Too late, too late: had England won, they would have met an easier team than Argentina in the round of 16.

Two things happened to Hoddle in the wake of the tournament. One, he had acquired a reverse Midas touch: everything he touched was turning to ordure. Second, he believed more strongly than ever in his own infallibility. Something was going to break: and soon. That much was clear.

The first colossal mistake was Hoddle's World Cup diary. He made a fortune by making public his private dealings with players. He should have been sacked for that book: but it was done, shamefully, with the connivance of the Football Association, and with an FA employee as Hoddle's personal ghost. But all trust between Hoddle and his squad was at an end, with the combination of the book and the quasi-compulsory faithhealer. This was made clear by the poor results achieved since England set out to qualify for the European championships — defeat by Sweden, draw at home to Bulgaria. If scandal didn't get him, then football would.

But Hoddle remained infallible. And the thing about the doctrine of infallibility is that it has a central design flaw. It involves an abandonment of objective reality. This is a problem in the pragmatic matter of trying to win football matches. And it is a greater problem when you try and communicate with people outside your immediate area of control.

Hoddle, believing in the things he made up, had forgotten that the rest of the world might find problems with them. Hence the statement about the second-class nature of the souls of the disabled: and the extraordinary nationwide rejection of these views.

It was a shockwave of powerful emotion and Hoddle was overwhelmed by it. Religion, as I said, is dangerous stuff: even in a secular age. It has done for Hoddle all right.

Football, like religion, is dangerous. After all, 26 million people watched the England-Argentina match. Football is part of people's pleasures, part of people's lives. Football is trivial, of course it is trivial: but people care about it. It matters. And so football empowers otherwise small and unimportant people. And there is only one thing in the world more dangerous than religion. And that is power.

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Glenn Hoddle leaving the home of his agent Dennis Roach on his way to the FA press conference yesterday

Blair swayed by mob, says Major



Major: accused Blair of hunting for headlines

By Roland Watson
Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR accused Tony Blair yesterday of exploiting the Hoddle affair in search of headlines. The Prime Minister had been driven by a "mob mentality".

Hours after Downing Street had tried to make an ungainly retreat from the episode, Mr Major said that Mr Blair's heavy hint on Monday that Hoddle should go revealed a government appetite for homing in on populist targets.

Addressing the House of Commons in a debate on the future of the Lords, Mr Major said: "It does not matter whether that target may be the unpopular principle of hereditary peers or the dotty ramblings of a football coach.

"If there's a mob mentality, then this Government will put itself at the head of that mentality to garner a headline or two." Downing Street said that Mr Blair had not called for Hoddle to go, 24 hours after he appeared to do precisely that. An official said that No 10 had telephoned Hoddle on Monday to try to calm the waters and to lift the impression of pressure from the top on the Football Association.

Downing Street refused to say whether the telephone call came from Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's official spokesman. But together with yesterday's attempted clarification from No 10, it amounted to a concerted effort to remove Mr Blair's fingerprints from last night's decision. Downing Street said officials had acted to ensure Hoddle was aware of the "full context" of Mr Blair's words.

The Prime Minister was drawn into the Hoddle debate when he appeared on Granada TV's *This Morning* programme on Monday. Asked by Richard Madeley whether he thought it was time for Hoddle to step down, Mr Blair said: "If he has really said it in the way that he has been reported to have said it, it is very offensive and it is difficult for him to stay in those circumstances, yes."

Downing Street pointed out that Mr Blair qualified his view four times with the rider that Hoddle's explanation of his comments had to be heard first. Mr Blair reiterated this yesterday when questioned by reporters after meeting business leaders in South Wales. "The real issue is whether what the newspaper reported is an accurate representation of what was said and what was meant," he said.

Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said: "The Prime Minister's intervention has simply confused matters. They seem to be getting in a muddle over this, and it is not now clear what the Prime Minister really meant."

Sponsors believe FA made right decision

By Adam Sherwin
and Steve Farrell

GLENN HODDLE's removal as England coach was welcomed last night by critics and disabled groups.

Mike Lazenby, marketing director for the Nationwide Building Society, the England team's sponsor, said: "The FA have made the right decision. As a sponsor we were obliged to disassociate ourselves from unacceptable views which caused distress to our members."

"We wanted to help football clean up its act and this episode shows where the boundaries lie."

The British Paralympic Association also backed the FA decision. "I think it would have been difficult for him to continue, but it had to be a footballing decision," a spokeswoman said. "We have been in contact with a lot of our athletes. Some of them are angry but the majority just shrugged it off with a bit of a smile."

However, the Labour peer Lord Ashley, who was deaf for some 25 years, said: "An aggressive media, a weak Football Association and his own lack of judgment have finished Glenn Hoddle. But it is a sad day for British tolerance and freedom of speech."

Peter Ainsworth, the shadow culture, media and sport secretary, said: "I entirely respect the decision of the FA, who have no doubt come to their conclusion on the basis of what they believe to be right for the sport."

John Maxton, a Labour member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, said: "I think Hoddle had no option but to resign. His statements were unacceptable."

Yemen hostages freed with gifts and apologies

FROM DANIEL McGRORY IN ADEN

TWO Britons held hostage in Yemen for 15 days were released yesterday, after receiving apologies and gifts from their kidnappers.

Eddie and Mary Rosser, and a Dutch family abducted with them, were released into the safekeeping of the tribal sheikh who was reportedly behind their abduction.

Before being driven from a mountain hideout, they were showered with gifts including an ornate antique bolt-action rifle by the tribesmen who abducted them. They were taken to Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Shaif's villa in the capital, Sanaa, where he offered profuse apologies and invited the captives to share a traditional breakfast with his neighbours and scores of others.

The Rossers hope to stay in Yemen to complete their six-month contract for a charity.

Mr Rosser, 61, said: "We bear no grudges to our captors. We never felt in danger from them and they never stopped apologising for taking us. There were some very nice guys among them and we made some good relationships, so we don't want to see them punished and we don't want to leave this country."

His wife, 64, was still wearing tribal dress given to her by the sheikh. "It sounds strange to some but these gifts are very personal to us; they were well meant and we shall keep them as memories," Mr Rosser said.

The couple, who ran a guesthouse for aid workers for the charity Worldwide Services, were kidnapped with two Dutch colleagues and their two young children. On their first night in captivity the gunmen told Mrs Rosser and the Dutch woman that they could leave with the children, but they refused to go without their husbands.

Over dinner, the tribesmen explained that the hostages were only a consolation prize, because a more ambitious kidnap had been planned. "They told us that they had set off for Sanaa with the intention of capturing someone from the American Embassy but didn't manage it and were coming home empty-handed when they bumped into us."

After 15 days in captivity, the Rossers were woken by a tribesman in the early hours and told that they were going back to Sanaa. They were handed over to the British Ambassador, Vic Henderson, and his Dutch counterpart.

Mr Rosser, from Lechlade, Gloucestershire, said: "The first thing we did was speak to our children, Paul and Penny. We want to talk to them about what we do next, but we both would love to see out our contract. It is a lovely country and we love the Yemeni people."

Tribesmen said that the Yemen Government had paid £30,000 for the release. The Foreign Office and Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied knowledge of a ransom.

Tony Blair welcomed the release. "Given recent events, we should consider ourselves very fortunate it has had a good ending," he said.

Eddie and Mary Rosser: hoping to stay in Yemen

Boy's body found in canal

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE body of a teenage rugby player who had been missing for four days was discovered in a canal yesterday.

George Mortimer's body was found in reed beds a few hundred yards from his home in Exeter.

George, 16, was last seen on Friday when he told a friend he was meeting two men by the River Exe, which runs alongside the canal. His body was taken to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital for a post-mortem examination by a Home Office pathologist.

The body was discovered after 50 police officers, believed to be acting on a tip-off, resumed their search of the Exe and the Exeter ship canal.

George's parents, Barry, a self-employed businessman, his wife Alice, and older brother Sam were being comforted at their home by specially trained police.

The 6ft 1in teenager, who was captain of Exeter Rugby club under-16 team, was last seen at his home at 5pm on Friday. He had been due to visit a friend but did not arrive.

Last night police, who have launched a murder inquiry, were questioning two men from Altrincham, Cheshire, arrested on Monday. One is 32, the other is in his twenties.



"I expect to get money, fame and fortune": Alara Gee, left, under the camera lights yesterday with her fellow pupil Katie Allison

Model students capitalise on lessons

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TEENAGERS at a comprehensive school who set up a modelling agency as part of their business studies are to relaunch it as a commercial venture. They have recruited fellow pupils — girls and boys — as models.

Sixteen-year-old Alara Gee has already completed several professional assignments, including a shoot for the Halifax Bank magazine and a portfolio using Max Foundation produced by Harvey Nichols, the fashion store. She said: "The work is great fun. It is definitely a good start for a teenager. I expect to get money, fame and fortune."

The students at Boston Spa Comprehensive School in West Yorkshire call their business Premier Snakers, after the models' wiggle on the catwalk. They were expected to create and run an imaginary firm for their advanced business studies course but decided that only the real thing would do.

They raised launch capital of £70 and set up the company under the Young Enterprise scheme. They planned to liquidate it after the summer term but will now relaunch it immediately afterwards as a continuing business. Premier Snakers has yet to make a profit but its founders expect that to change after the relaunch. They have 26 models on their books, aged 16 to 18, who were selected by their classmates. The 11 girls and 15 boys have had a portfolio of photos taken by Ross Featherstone, 16. They will appear in a calendar being created to win outside work and next month will take part in their own fashion show. Sponsors are being sought for the calendar and part of its profits will go to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.



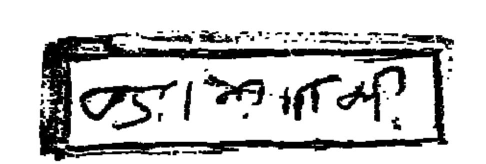
Alex Simmons, centre, presents his co-members of Premier Snakers

John Cuthell, the school's business course co-ordinator, said it was the first time that he had known business students to set up a modelling agency.

Alex Simmons, 16, of Leeds, the joint managing director, said: "We wanted to do something a bit different. A modelling agency seemed perfect. What we're really excited about is that it gives us the chance to carry things on after school. I have always wanted to be successful in everything I do. I am a very bad loser."

Lee Hicken, 17, the other joint MD, said he believed that the agency was the first of its kind. "We just saw a lot of really nice people around school who we thought would make it as models. I just thought of all this talent going to waste and we decided to do something about it."

Lee Hawkins, 16, from Collingham, West Yorkshire, said that he had no qualms about posing for the camera. "Giving it a go in front of your friends must be less nerve-racking than modelling for a lot of strangers."



New-look Lords 'to hold UK together'

PETER MANDELSON last night re-entered the political fray with a passionate speech from the back benches on Lords reform (James Landale writes).

The former Trade and Industry Secretary said a reformed second chamber should be used as a "glue" to hold together the constitution in the wake of devolution. He also claimed to have been the minister behind the Government's plan for a royal commission.

In the second day of debate on the Government's Bill to expel hereditary peers, two former Tory Prime Ministers also made rare speeches, both warning of the Government's contempt for Parliament's check over the executive.

Sir Edward Heath broke ranks with his front bench and called for an elected Upper House. John Major warned of the Government's complete uncertainty of what to do once the hereditaries were gone.

Mr Mandelson suggested that the new Lords could contain representatives of the regions and could have improved links with Europe, but warned against giving it new powers.

MP accuses Irvine of legal work 'cronyism'

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD IRVINE of Lairg was last night accused of further "cronyism" after it emerged that the bulk of legal work that he has commissioned as Lord Chancellor has gone to his former set of chambers.

Since May 1997 the Government has paid £36,687 to Lord Irvine's former Chambers, 11 King's Bench Walk, much more than to other barristers in other London chambers.

A parliamentary answer by Geoff Hoon, the Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department, shows that 24 sets of chambers have been used for work since Lord Irvine was appointed to the Cabinet. Most of the firms have done small amounts of work but £31,531 has been paid to Temple Gardens, £20,180 to 39 Essex Street and £23,735 to Queen Elizabeth Building.

David Ruffley, the Tory MP for Bury St Edmunds who tabled the question, said the large sums going to 11 King's Bench Walk was further evidence of "jobs for the boys".

"It is an amazing coincidence that Lord Irvine's former set of chambers gets more work for his department than any other chambers in London," Mr Ruffley said. "It's a clear case of Irvine's cronies."

But the Lord Chancellor's department pointed out that the Treasury Junior, or "Treasury Devil", appointed 12 months ago, works at 11 King's Bench Walk so he would be bound to carry out most of the work. The appointment of Philip Sales provoked protests at the time. The Treasury Devil is an independent barrister who is briefed and paid for advice or court appearances on behalf of government departments.

Last December Lord Falconer of Thoroton, then Solicitor-General, said the appointment had been made on merit. Mr Sales, 36, was a young appointment but highly rated and already tipped for stardom as "Lord Irvine's blue-eyed boy".

The Lord Chancellor's Department was unable to provide a breakdown as to how much work had been done by Mr Sales and how much had been done by other barristers at 11 King's Bench Walk, saying "we are confident that the figure for 11 King's Bench Walk reflects his role".

DYLAN MARTINEZ/REUTERS



Tony Blair kissing a woman on the cheek during a walkabout with Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, outside their hotel in Bristol yesterday

Flawed confessions of talkshow politician

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

TONY BLAIR wants to be the People's Prime Minister. As he told *This Morning* on Monday: "I think it is a good idea for people in my position to try to communicate with people directly and talk about things that really interest people."

The People's Priorities, as interpreted by those maestros of daytime television, ranged from Mr Blair's relations with his children and whether he is bossy at home, to the future of the England football manager. But those who live by populism are liable to be tripped up by it. The political strategy is clear. Working-class women who form the core viewers of such shows are among the strongest supporters of Labour. According to the MORI polls for *The Times*, some 62 per cent of them back Labour, against 43 per cent of middle-class women. (This is based on aggregate data for October to December of last year.)

Moreover, support for Labour is highest among the key target groups of 18-to-24 and 25-to-34-year-old women, at 75 and 68 per cent respectively. Labour devoted considerable efforts before the election to courting these groups, a fifth or less of whom back the Tories. Party strategists found that they could not reach them by newspapers or current affairs television. Hence, the recourse to the lime-green chairs.

Contrary to the sniffy comment of the past two days, there is nothing wrong in trying to communicate more directly with the public. Despite our high level of newspaper readership compared with other countries, the fragmentation of the television market means that politicians can no longer assume that almost everybody will be watching the same news bulletins. This particularly applies to younger people and ethnic minorities.

The problem is less the medium than the message. The boundaries of political discourse, or at any rate what politicians talk about, are forever widening. They discuss everything from their families, via hobbies, likes and dislikes in pop music (never classical) and sport (football is in, cricket is out) to their personal beliefs and faiths. This is supposed to make them folksy and popular. But it often jars.

Such populist gestures compromise politicians' frequent insistence that their personal and family lives should be private. They face the same dilemma as the Royal Family in allowing the media access to their personal lives on their own terms. But it is hard then to draw a line between acceptable and unacceptable disclosure.

Politicians and newspapers, let alone chatshow hosts, have different roles. It is for politicians to argue, debate, propose and act over public issues for which they are elected. But it is not their job to pronounce on non-political matters. It is nothing whatsoever to do with Mr Blair, or Tony Banks for that matter, who serves as England coach however much they disapprove of his comments on this subject or that. The Football Association is not an arm of government.

The essence of a pluralist society is that the role of government is limited, and that means what ministers say and do. Harold Macmillan was right when he said that people should look to bishops, not to ministers, for a lead on moral issues. Politicians ought to say that sport, the arts and the like are nothing to do with them. The People's Prime Minister remains a politician, not a talkshow host or a national confessor.

Blair puts jobs at top of Europe's agenda

BY MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR declared yesterday that he would like to scrap any EU legislation that stands in the way of people finding jobs.

The Prime Minister launched his attack on Brussels red tape as he discussed Europe's rising unemployment with local businessmen and women in Bristol. "A lot of these different regulations that have come about from a slightly different era in Europe can be revisited in circumstances where we are developing a different type of single market in the European Union," he said.

Mr Blair had travelled to Bristol with Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, who was paying a short visit to Britain. Both leaders took part in a question-and-answer session.

Mr Blair said beforehand that for "Britain to get the best out of the EU we must be players on the pitch, not commentators in the stands".

But his remarks focused on how unemployment could be combated. "Jobs and growth have got to be top of the agenda," he said. "There is no doubt that to tackle the unacceptably high levels of unemployment in Europe, there has to be structural reform, accompanying a disciplined and strong euro."

But although Mr Blair said flexibility was required in the job market, he insisted this did not mean abandoning the social aspects of European employment law. He applauded Mr Kok for combining strong economic measures with social justice and compared it to his own Third Way. "It is the same idea, the belief that you do not pursue social justice at the expense of economic dynamism and strength."

Labour moves to head off Morgan

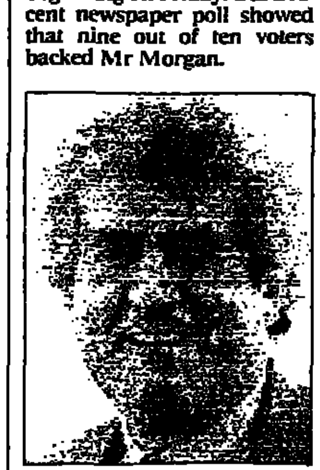
BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

LABOUR yesterday increased its efforts to cut short the momentum of Rhodri Morgan's campaign to become its Welsh party leader.

On his third visit to the Principality in three months, Tony Blair put his full weight behind Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary. But even if Mr Michael succeeds in securing the Welsh Labour leadership it will not guarantee him the post of First Secretary of the Welsh assembly.

Senior Labour figures are stepping up efforts to depict Mr Michael as the sound choice of all three sections of the party's electoral college in the race for leadership.

They believe Mr Michael will "win through" to voters when he meets Mr Morgan in a series of hustings meetings beginning on Friday. But a recent newspaper poll showed that nine out of ten voters backed Mr Morgan.



Morgan: nine out of ten backed him in recent poll

Nanny spared jail for shaking baby to death

Judge lets Australian go home for treatment because of her low IQ, report **Richard Duce** and **Christine Middap**

THE nanny who shook a six-month-old baby to death was yesterday freed to return to Australia after a judge ruled that she needed help rather than *punishment*.

Louise Sullivan, 27, will fly back to Sydney for treatment for the mental deficiencies that contributed to the death of Caroline Jongen last April.

The baby's parents refused to comment on Sullivan's sentence of 15 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, but police said that they had not wanted to see another life destroyed.

Muriel and Marcel Jongen were at the Old Bailey to hear Mr Justice Mitchell say: "Nothing can restore that baby to her mother and father. I can but hope that having braved the ordeal of these proceedings they can understand why I have, with some reluctance, allowed Louise Sullivan to return to Australia."

Sullivan, who has an IQ of only 81 because of a thyroid deficiency, was embraced by her mother, Robyn, and by her barrister, Nadine Radford, QC, who had argued that imprisonment would probably cause a mental breakdown.

The Sullivan family left the court without comment. Karen Todner, Sullivan's solicitor, said: "We are pleased that the judge was able to show compassion to a girl who has never deliberately sought to harm a child which she cared for and loved."

Miss Todner, giving Sullivan's version of events leading up to the baby's death at home in Cricklewood, northwest London, said: "Louise believed that Caroline suffered a fit or convulsion. Louise had never experienced such a situation before. During her training in Australia Louise was taught the 'shake and shout' method. Most regrettably, it was this course of action that ultimately resulted in Caroline's death. This is not a case that is about temper or loss of patience ... This is the case of a girl who panicked and made a mistake with tragic consequences."



Sullivan leaving the Old Bailey yesterday

Sullivan, who had admitted manslaughter, is expected to return to Australia with her mother and father, Barry, as soon as her passport is returned by police.

She had been a nanny for five years. Passing sentence, the judge told her: "The sad truth can be stated simply: with that deficit in your mental capability, you were wholly unsuitable for the career you chose and the work you were employed to do. There was, in truth, a concealed but massive question mark of your ability to cope with the ups and downs and occasional crises that can arise in the early months of a young baby's life."

The judge said manslaughter would normally demand a prison sentence but Sullivan "had not the slightest insight" into her mental problems, which had not previously been diagnosed. The court was told that she was born without a thyroid gland, which left her of below average intellect and prone to anxiety and depression. "Terrible though the consequences of what you did were, your action was not intended or, by any stretch of the imagination, an act committed in temper or gratuitous violence," the judge told her.

Sullivan had completed a childcare course in New South Wales and two Australian Red Cross courses during which she learnt the "shake and shout" method. The prosecution said that she had shaken Caroline for five to ten seconds, making her brain wobble "like a jelly inside a mould". The child died four days later from brain damage.

After the case, Detective Chief Inspector David Brown said there could be no criticism of Mr Jongen, a Dutch-born banker, or Mrs Jongen, a French-born financial analyst. They had interviewed Sullivan twice, checked her references and spoken to former employees who said that they had been happy with her work.

He asked that the couple be left alone to grieve and said that it was not for police to comment on the sentence. "I will never forget Mr Jongen saying that they did not want to destroy Louise Sullivan's life," Mr Brown said.

Valerie Howarth, chief executive of the charity ChildLine, said: "We urge that systems be put in place thoroughly to screen and register anyone working or seeking work with children so that tragedies such as this can be prevented."



Peter the macaw took to the trees after his defenestration and remains at large

Love flies out the window

By Simon de Bruxelles

A HENPECKED macaw is on the loose after crashing through a window to escape the advances of his partner.

Peter, an eight-year-old South American green-winged macaw, had endured months of unwanted attention from Prudence at their owners' pet shop in Frome, Somerset. On Monday, Prudence inched along the perch once too often. The colourful object of her affection, 3ft long with a 4in beak and weighing 7lb, shot "like a bullet" across the aviary and out through a closed window.

Jayne and Angus Hart, the birds' owners, spent yesterday trying to recover the bird. Mrs Hart, 40, said: "I knew they weren't getting on very well and Prudence made him a bit nervous, but I didn't know it was this bad."

Emma Magnus, an animal behaviourist, said macaws were choosy lovers. "If they get companionship from their human owners they often don't need it from a female."



Prudence: deserted

MPs call for checks to keep QCs up to scratch

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

BARRISTERS who are made Queen's Counsel should undergo regular checks of their competence as part of a wholesale modernisation of the silks system, MPs say.

More than 100 MPs have signed an early day motion seeking a debate on the QC system, which they say should be examined alongside the Government's other reforms of the legal profession.

Queen's Counsel make up about one tenth of the practising Bar, which numbers 8,000. They are considered to have reached a high level of ability and experience.

Andrew Dismore, a former solicitor who tabled the motion, said that there were no mechanisms to ensure that, once appointed, QCs kept up to scratch. "We are told that it is a kind of kitemark for the Bar, but if that is the case, there must be proper mechanisms for monitoring it," he said.

Mr Dismore, Labour MP for Hendon, said he was not waging a crusade against QCs. "Many of my best friends are QCs, as they say. And I have known some brilliant QCs ... but also some rather mediocre ones.

"At a time when we have radical and far-reaching reforms for modernising justice going through Parliament, we should take this opportunity to look also at the silks system and whether it is operating in the public interest."

Mr Dismore also suggested that the cost of the QC system could be carried by the Bar rather than paid for by the taxpaper. The selection procedure costs the Lord Chancellor's Department £60,000 to £80,000 a year.

The rank is highly sought-after, with more than 500 barristers applying to become a QC each year. One applicant last year had applied 25 times before without success.



Parrot's feather: named as a foreign menace

Wetland war on alien invaders

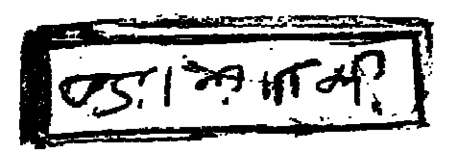
By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

PARROT'S feather and fairy fern were yesterday declared a menace by the Environment Agency, which accused them and other foreign plants of clogging British waterways.

To mark World Wetlands Day, the agency declared Pevensey Levels in East Sussex a wetland of international importance and warned that its qualities were under threat from four alien species. They named the invaders as *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (parrot's feather); *Crassula helmsii* (Australian swamp stonecrop); *Azolla filiculoides* (fairy fern); and *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* (floating pennywort).

The agency, which says there are native alternatives,is asking all nurseries and garden centres to withdraw the four troublesome species from sale. "Now is a good time to think about planting pond plants, so we are urging pond owners and garden centres to be careful in their selections and avoid the nuisance species," Phil Griffiths, a spokesman, said.

Pevensey Levels is the largest and least fragmented area of lowland wet grass in southeast England, famous for dragonflies and freshwater molluscs. The foreign plants, having no natural controls, form dense carpets on the water surface, reducing the amount of oxygen and killing fish and invertebrates.



هكذا في الاصل

Olympic city's missing sword tale cuts no ice

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

MYSTERY surrounds the whereabouts of a traditional short sword which Japanese officials say they gave to Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), eight years ago and which appears to have vanished.

On Monday the IOC said that neither it nor Señor Samaranch has any record or recollection of receiving a Japanese sword from the city of Nagano, which hosted the 1998 Winter Olympics.

However, the governor of Nagano prefecture maintains that the sword, made by a local craftsman, was presented to Señor Samaranch when he visited Nagano, northwest of Tokyo, in May 1991. The city was chosen to host the Games in June that year.

According to Governor Goro Yoshimura, who was chairman of the bid committee, the sword was "donated" by the sword-maker himself, adding "there may have been an intermediary". But he refused to reveal the identity of either the craftsman or the intermediary, saying the sword-maker wanted no publicity.

In fact, the gift remained a secret until a Japanese newspaper made allegations last month that Nagano's bidding committee violated the IOC code of ethics by presenting Señor Samaranch with a valuable sword and kimono.

The governor's curious version of events — that a publicity-shy swordsmith presented the weapon at his own expense — has failed to convince a sceptical public. It is widely seen as an attempt to deflect anger about the misuse of taxpayers' money during Nagano's drive to host the Olympics.

Since the controversy over the Salt Lake City Olympics erupted, details have emerged of first-class air fares, all-expenses-paid stays at resorts, entertainment by geishas, and other luxuries lavished on visiting IOC members by Nagano. A Nagano citizens' group says it plans to take the Games' organisers to court for misuse of public money.

But potentially the most embarrassing perk is the sword, which was given to Señor Samaranch, according to the governor, but which Señor Samaranch cannot recall receiving.

There is much that is puzzling about the episode. No photograph is known to exist of a presentation ceremony — a curious omission in a country of obsessive shutterbugs.

However, it has been confirmed that the necessary procedures for exporting the sword were completed, meaning that it left the country. Under Japanese law, guns and swords must be registered.

Nagano prefectural officials refused to say in whose name the sword was registered, citing "a need to safeguard privacy". According to a local businessman, Soichiro Yoshida, who played a key role in Nagano's Olympic bid, the weapon is a traditional short sword — originally designed for hand-to-hand combat and piercing a foe's armour.

The Japanese Olympic Committee was yesterday preparing to respond to an IOC request for any evidence of wrongdoing in Nagano's successful bid. But it is unlikely to yield anything negative: city incinerators took care of that.

An official of the bidding committee last month admitted that he ordered 90 accounting books, detailing how much was spent on wining and dining IOC officials, to be burnt in 1992 because they carried "secret information".

Explaining this destruction of potentially damning evidence, Nagano's Mayor, Tasuku Tsukada, blithely told reporters that it was "the Japanese way of doing things".

Banks appeal, page 37

JEAN BERNARD SIEBER / REUTERS



Juan Antonio Samaranch in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday for a conference on doping. He has denied all knowledge of the Japanese sword

Woman on trial in Paris after 50 girls circumcised

Case pits rights campaigners against ancient custom, writes Adam Sage

MAMA GREOU, a Frenchwoman of Malian origin, went on trial in Paris yesterday for allegedly circumcising about 50 girls in the biggest case of its kind to come before a French court.

She was accompanied into the defendants' box by 27 of the girls' parents in the first hearing in France to be triggered by a victim's complaint.

Hawa Gréou, 52, known among France's 40,000-strong Malian community as Mama Gréou, faces up to 20 years in jail if found guilty after a hearing expected to last two weeks.

Human rights organisations are calling for a dissuasive sentence in the hope of stamping out the genital mutilation practised by a small minority of the several million people of African origin living in France.

The defence does not contest the facts, but says that French justice is ill-equipped to tackle an ancient African custom and should treat her with leniency.

The defendant was arrested after a tip-off from Mariatou Koita, 23, a law student in Paris of Malian origin, who denounced her for allegedly circumcising two of her sisters five years ago. Mlle Koita claims she suffered at Mama Gréou's hands in 1983, when she was eight. "There were several women," she told magistrates. "Two held me down, one held my legs, the other my arms. The third circumcised me. I shouted and asked my mother why she said nothing. My mother cried."



Koita: claims suffering at hands of Gréou

Detectives placed a listening device on the defendant's telephone and found what they say is evidence of about 50 circumcisions carried out over the past five years. The French Commission for the Abolition of Genital Mutiliation says the true figure is nearer 100 operations.

The prosecution says that Mama Gréou knew female circumcision had been a crime in France since 1984 and took precautions to cover her tracks. She often performed her back-street surgery in holiday periods, when nobody would hear the girls' screams.

Police officers found the unsterilised razors they say she used in the operations at her Paris flat, as well as an instrument made of two metal spikes fixed to a plastic tube. In 1994, she was given a suspended sentence after a court convicted her of carrying out several dozen circumcisions.

Police say the 27 parents, who are being charged as accomplices, all knew that the operations to remove the clitoris from their daughters were illegal in France. That point is important because defendants have claimed to be ignorant of the law in previous genital mutilation hearings in France.

Mama Gréou's lawyer, Jean Chavais, said: "Punishment is not as effective as education and prevention. I do not say circumcision is necessary, but if we want to fight it, we must use means other than the courts. It takes a long time to change habits."

But Linda Weil-Curiel, of the Commission for the Abolition of Genital Mutilation, called for a prison sentence. "Jail marks people's minds. That will enable families to use the risk of being sent to prison as a way of turning away from this custom."

Female circumcision is performed mainly, although not solely, by Muslims in the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Opposition leader jailed for speaking

FROM REUTERS IN SINGAPORE

A SINGAPORE opposition politician chose seven days in jail rather than pay a fine yesterday after he was found guilty of making speeches in public without a permit in a trial that sparked rare debate in the city-state.

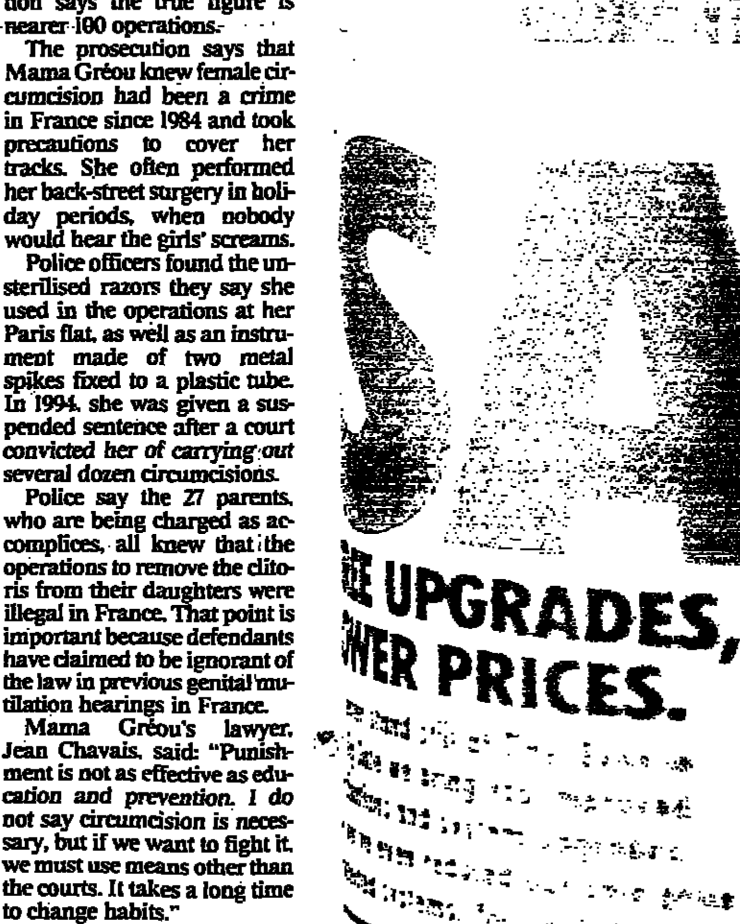
Chee Soon Juan, 36, was found guilty of breaking strict public speaking laws. A district judge, See Kee Oon, fined him S$1,400 (£518), with imprisonment if he failed to pay.

Mr Chee said: "I feel that I have done absolutely nothing wrong. I have to serve time in prison for exercising my constitutional rights."

He was found guilty of an offence under the Public Entertainments Act — which requires permits for public speaking — after he gave a speech on December 29 in Singapore's central business district without a licence.

His counsel, J.B. Jeyaretnam, said that the Act was unconstitutional, but the judge disagreed.

Mr Chee, the Singapore Democratic Party leader, has had several high-profile clashes with the law. He says the public speaking permit system, censorship laws and state media control are designed to make it hard for the Opposition to be heard.





Woman on tr
in Paris after
girls circumci

Belgrade on the spot as rebels agree to talks

By Michael Evans, defence editor

THE Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) indicated yesterday that it would attend the peace conference planned to start in Rambouillet on Saturday, putting pressure on Belgrade to follow suit.

The first positive sign that the KLA will send delegates to Rambouillet, outside Paris, came after a meeting of the organisation's general staff at a secret base in Kosovo, the disaffected province of Serbia. The negotiators are expected to be named today.

Jakup Krasniqi, a KLA spokesman, said: "We are definitely going to the talks with our proposals."

He said that the KLA would insist on leading the ethnic Albanian delegation because "no one has the right to decide the future of Kosovo other than those who fight and make sacrifices for Kosovo".

The response from President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, is not expected until tomorrow or Friday, leaving it to the last moment.

Diplomatic sources said that the Serbian and Yugoslav parliaments had to be consulted before any announcement could be made by the Government in Belgrade.

Provided the KLA's decision is confirmed, it will mean that all sections of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo will be represented at the talks at the château. Ibrahim Rugova, the political leader of the moderate ethnic Albanians, has confirmed that he will be represented.

Belgrade has been warned that, if it is the only party that refuses to attend the peace talks, it will face possible airstrikes.

James Rubin, the US State Department spokesman, said that Belgrade would be making a "big, big mistake" by doubting Nato's determination to use force if it failed to send a negotiating team.

The KLA made clear that it would not give up its aim of full independence for Kosovo and that its negotiators would be arguing for a referendum on independence at the end of the three-year interim period proposed by Christopher Hill, the US envoy, whose plan for the future of the Yugoslav province will form the basis of the peace talks.

In the latest draft of the Hill plan, there are also elements that are unlikely to find favour with Mr Milosevic. According to the draft, the head of the Kosovo verification team, the American envoy William Walker, would have authority over both Belgrade and the ethnic Albanian leaders in ensuring the proper implementation of all elements of the peace settlement.

Sources at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is responsible for the verification mission in Kosovo, said it was envisaged that the head of the OSCE team in the province would have similar powers to those of Carlos Westendorp, the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who is responsible for implementing the civilian aspects of the Dayton peace accord.

Under the draft plan, Mr Walker would be able to overrule Belgrade if there was a dispute over implementing any peace settlement, effectively removing Mr Milosevic's authority over the province.

However, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said the peace plan would leave foreign and defence matters, as well as financial strategy, to Belgrade and sovereignty of the province would not be affected.

The OSCE verification team has 1,070 members operating in Kosovo. That will rise to 1,600 and will reach the originally proposed 2,000 level once a peace settlement is approved. The final 400 verifiers will be legal experts and police officers.

News of the KLA's decision to go to Rambouillet emerged after earlier statements had indicated a more negative approach. Adem Demaci, the political representative of the KLA, said that he had advised against going to Rambouillet.

Leading article, page 17

Serbs give back massacre dead

Pristina: Serbian authorities in Kosovo yesterday released the bodies of more than 40 victims of an alleged massacre of ethnic Albanians by Serb security forces last month after completing post-mortem examinations.

The official Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency quoted a local judge, Danica Marinkovic, as saying the victims' families were free to take the bodies for burial in their village of Racak, southwest of the provincial capital Pristina.

But family members said they wanted the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to help them with the task because they feared harassment by the Serbs. *(Reuters)*

YANNIS BEHRAKIS / REUTERS



A woman waits at Pristina mortuary to collect the body of her son, killed in Racak last month

Russia's teenagers pay price of the sex revolution

From Alice Lagnado in Moscow

RUSSIAN girls are having sex earlier as sex education in schools is abandoned and sexually transmitted diseases are increasing.

The percentage of girls under 16 who have had sex doubled from 16 per cent in 1993 to about 33 per cent in 1995, according to a new study by the Sociological Centre of the Russian Academy of Education.

Thirty-six per cent of boys under 16 had sex in 1993, and 44 per cent in 1995.

Cases of syphilis have also increased dramatically. The number of teenagers between 15 and 17 who contracted it went up 70-fold between 1990 and 1996, from 5.7 per 100,000 to 389.9, the study found.

The *Moscow Times* reported that schools, which began to teach sex education for the first time in the 1990s, stopped in 1997 after parents complained about explicit questionnaires given to children.

Although in private Russians are far more open than the British about sex, public education on the subject has barely started. Pornography, which in Soviet times was only found on the black market, is everywhere. Parents and schools have failed to react to this change, leaving children to find out about sex through friends, magazines and televised porn films. Abortion remains the most popular method of contraception.

Médecins Sans Frontières has launched a media campaign to persuade Russian teenagers to use condoms. Ilona van de Braak, the campaign coordinator, said that "young people are well informed, but HIV [the Aids-related virus] is seen as so remote that they take no preventive measures".

Organisers are hoping that Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's Mayor, who backs the Orthodox Church stance against sex education, will not object. During a similar campaign last year, he ordered posters to be torn down and banned educational advertisements on a government-backed television channel.



Franz Fuchs shouts slogans during his trial yesterday

Armless man disrupts his trial for bombings

From Nigel Glass in Vienna

AN ARMLESS man with a Hitler-style moustache and haircut repeatedly interrupted the first day of his trial in Graz, Austria, yesterday for the murder of four Gypsies, during a series of bombings, by shouting xenophobic slogans.

As soon as Franz Fuchs, 49, was brought into the dock, he shouted: "Long live the Bavarian Liberation Army."

The unemployed instrument technician went on to attack foreigners and "the Zionist persecution of the German people". The judge, Heinz Fuhmann, repeatedly ordered Herr Fuchs to be returned to the cells, and much of the proceedings were conducted in his absence.

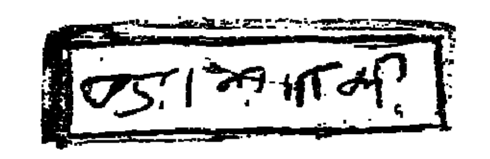
The prosecution said that a string of bomb attacks, carried out in Austria between 1993 and 1996 and purporting to be in the name of the Bavarian Liberation Army, was carried out solely by Herr Fuchs.

Police claimed that he had confessed to the offences, but Herr Fuchs's lawyers said that he was acting as part of a group.

The four Gypsies lost their lives when a shrapnel bomb was detonated near their home in the eastern Austrian province of Burgenland. In another attack by letter-bomb, Helmut Zilk, a former Mayor of Vienna and supporter of minority rights, lost his hand.

Herr Fuchs lost his own arms when an explosive device, which he was carrying at the time of his arrest, detonated.

Opposition lea
jailed for speak



WORLD IN BRIEF

Police in Pakistan attack journalists

Islamabad: Several people were hurt yesterday when police attacked hundreds of journalists and press workers protesting against a crackdown on the press that threatens to close Pakistan's leading newspapers (Zahid Hussain writes). A senior woman journalist received serious head injuries when she was hit by a baton. The largest Urdu and English-language newspapers, the *Jang* and *News on Tuesday*, were restricted to two-page editions as the Government blocked their newsprint supply and froze their bank accounts.

The *Jang* group said that it was being victimised because it refused to comply with a government demand that it should dismiss 16 senior journalists and stop printing corruption stories about Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and his family.

Reshuffle by Yeltsin

Moscow: President Yeltsin reshuffled his executive office yesterday, three days after leaving hospital where he was treated for a bleeding ulcer (Alice Lagnado writes). On an unexpected visit to the Kremlin, Mr Yeltsin dismissed four of his six advisers, leaving only his daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, and Mikhail Zurabov. He also made Aleksei Ogaryev, a presidential Deputy Chief of Staff responsible for defence, into Deputy Secretary of the Security Council where he will fulfil similar duties, and made Sergei Prikhodko, another Deputy Chief of Staff, head of the executive office's foreign policy department.

Bissau battle kills 35

Lisbon: A fierce battle between government forces and rebels fighting for control of Guinea-Bissau's capital left dozens dead and more than 200 wounded, aid workers said. Wagdi Othman, spokesman for the United Nations World Food Programme, said hospital sources in Bissau had reported counting at least 35 dead and about 220 wounded, mostly civilians. The fighting appeared to mark the disintegration of a November peace accord that had halted a five-month civil war. *(AP)*

US jets in new raids

Washington: American aircraft bombed and apparently destroyed a newly-established anti-ship missile site in southern Iraq that could have threatened Gulf shipping, the Pentagon said. Officials said that four jets from the carrier *USS Carl Vinson* in the Gulf attacked the Russian-made missile battery. US jets also made at least four bombing strikes against anti-aircraft sites in the northern no-fly zone. *(Reuters)*

Angolan air crash

Luanda: An Antonov-12 cargo plane, above, crashed into a shanty town in the Angolan capital's suburbs, killing at least 28 people. The plane, owned by a private Angolan company, SavanAir, was returning to Luanda airport 30 minutes after taking off because of a faulty engine. Witnesses said one of the engines was on fire as the plane went down. The aircraft exploded on impact and demolished five houses. *(AP)*

Love on home front

Copenhagen: Peter Larsen, 24, married Anna Margrethe Sorensen, 93, to keep her from being put in a hospice by her family, according to Danish reports. Mr Larsen met her when he was a home-help in Gentofte, north of the capital. "A social worker came to persuade me to divorce, saying my husband was interested only in my house," Mrs Larsen said, but added: "I am not a rich widow. Ours is a love marriage." *(AFP)*

President's pal in spotlight

By Damian Whitworth in Washington



JAMES WILSON / REUTERS

Vernon Jordan, President Clinton's long-time confidant and golf partner, leaving his Washington home yesterday on his way to be questioned

AFTER failing to uncover any new bombshells during their interrogation of Monica Lewinsky, prosecutors in the impeachment trial of President Clinton yesterday turned their attention to his confidant, Vernon Jordan.

As Mr Jordan, a lawyer and golfing partner of Mr Clinton, was giving his deposition, senators were reviewing in private the videotape of Ms Lewinsky's testimony.

Those who were in the Washington hotel suite as she was questioned on Monday kept a public silence about what she said.

But news leaked out that she had added almost nothing new to the accounts she had given on 22 other occasions when she testified under oath about her relationship with Mr Clinton.

The former White House trainee was said to have given a polished, unflustered performance as she was questioned for four hours by Ed Bryant, a House of Representatives trial manager.

It appeared that she had been extremely well prepared by her team of lawyers. But while she did not provide anything new to damn Mr Clinton, she stuck with testimony that is already central to the charges of perjury and obstruction of justice against the President.

She maintained that she and Mr Clinton indulged in sexual conduct that he has denied under oath and repeated an account of a series of events that prosecutors insist shows that Mr Clinton was obstructing justice by trying to conceal his affair.

Nevertheless, the prosecution will be disappointed that she did not deviate from her story that she was never offered a job to buy her silence and that she was never asked to lie about the affair.

Her confidence was displayed when, in the middle of defence objections about his line of questioning, Mr Bryant retracted a question himself. "See, I'm making my own objections," he said.

"Sustained!" said Ms Lewinsky, to peals of laughter.

White House lawyers were apparently so untroubled by the way the questioning went that they asked no questions of their own. Instead, Nicole Seligman, one of Mr Clinton's personal lawyers, read a one-line statement which regretted "on behalf of the President" the ordeal that she had endured. Ms Lewinsky said thank you to Ms Seligman, but gave no further reaction.

Mr Jordan, who had testified five times before the Grand Jury, was expected to be questioned intensively about discrepancies between his testimony and that of Ms Lewinsky. He is considered the key player in the efforts that were made to help find Ms Lewinsky a job.

He admits he helped her, but denies he did so to keep her quiet. Prosecutors claim he stepped up his efforts once Ms Lewinsky was called to testify in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case about the nature of her relationship with Mr Clinton.

The prosecution was understood to be particularly keen to ask Mr Jordan: why Ms Lewinsky said he reviewed her affidavit for the Jones case but he denied this; why she said he told her to destroy drafts of notes to Mr Clinton, but he says this was not the case; why he said he had never had breakfast with Ms Lewinsky but she supplied details of what they ate; why he had no memory of seeing gifts from Mr Clinton to Ms Lewinsky that she says she showed him.

Mr Jordan's interrogator was Asa Hutchinson, the Arkansas representative and former attorney who prosecuted Mr Clinton's brother, Roger, for cocaine possession and is widely regarded as the most effective of the House prosecutors in the trial so far.

Mr Jordan, however, famous for his slick, assured manner, appeared totally unfazed as he entered the Senate. Wearing a hat with a feather in the band, he smiled and greeted reporters cheerfully as he went in and headed for a secure, soundproofed room normally used for classified briefings.

Today prosecutors and White House lawyers will question Sidney Blumenthal, a senior presidential aide.

Tomorrow the 100 Senators will resume the trial and decide whether to air the tapes of the three depositions publicly.

Meanwhile, momentum continues to grow for a "finding of facts" motion which could conclude the trial with a simple majority vote on the wrongs Mr Clinton has committed without removing him from office. Votes on other motions last week indicated that the required two thirds of the Senate is not in favour of convicting him on the articles of impeachment.

☐ **Challenger bows out:** Dick Gephardt, leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives, is expected to announce today that he will not challenge Vice-President Al Gore for the party's nomination for President in 2000. He will concentrate instead on trying to retake the House from Republicans and becoming the new Speaker.

Mr Gephardt has been credited with helping the White House and Democratic candidates to shape the 1998 election as a referendum on the Republicans' handling of the Lewinsky investigation. Democrats picked up five seats in the House, narrowing the Republicans already thin lead.

Clinton blush is acne flush

By Damian Whitworth

WAS that a blush creeping across President Clinton's face as Monica Lewinsky gave her deposition in his impeachment trial? Or was he just flushed under pressure? A red-faced Mr Clinton appeared in public on Monday as his former paramour was being questioned about their relationship. But the cause was adult acne rather than embarrassment.

Mr Clinton suffers outbreaks of rosacea, a skin condition that leaves him with a face like a beetroot. The cause is often stress. "If someone has rosacea, they always have it, so when they get excited or upset or they have their emotions upset, it'll flare up," said Melvin Elson, a dermatologist.

To be fair to Mr Clinton, it may have been something he consumed. Rosacea can be brought on by anything that raises blood pressure, such as spicy food or alcohol. Mr Clinton hardly ever touches liquor but he is partial to hot Southern cuisine.

Americans will sympathise with their President. An estimated 13 million of them are fellow sufferers.

SHAKH AIVAZOV / AP

Monica Lewinsky's picture adorns wrappers of chocolate bars with different fillings which went on sale this week in Tbilisi, the capital of the Georgian Republic

Reform pledge by Venezuela's 'Mr Clean'

From Gabriella Gamini in Caracas

HUGO CHAVEZ, 44, who in 1992 led a failed coup in Venezuela, was sworn in yesterday as President.

He promised to clean up the country's corruption-riddled system, to uphold democracy and pull Venezuelans from the clutches of "cronyism".

The former paratrooper won an overwhelming majority in elections in November after he appeared throughout the country wearing military uniforms and a red beret and promising that he would "fry" corrupt politicians and judges, and would "take from the rich to give to the poor."

But he has changed his look and his oratory. He appeared in a smart suit at his swearing-in in Caracas yesterday and received a standing ovation from 18 Latin American heads of state who attended.

Reassuring foreign investors and the United States, which buys much of its petroleum from Venezuela, Señor Chávez said that his administration would continue with free-market reforms and with efforts to repay debts and reduce public spending.

His populist speeches initially made investors jittery, but markets have calmed down and now see Señor Chávez as a reforming leader.

Economists are pleased to see that he is following in the steps of President Menem of Argentina, who also came to power on populist speeches but soon became a free-marketeer.

"We want to make Venezuela into a forward-looking, thriving country and take it out of its backward, bankrupt state," the new President said. "We want to attract foreign investment and will show the world that our country is a safe place for investment."

Señor Chávez takes over from Rafael Caldera, 83, who had been slow in implementing reforms and unable to lift his country from the recession brought on by the oil price fall.

The new President's popular appeal comes because he is seen as a catalyst for change. Although jailed briefly for the bloody coup which he led in 1992 and associated with an authoritarian style of leadership, Venezuelans see him as an upright "Mr Clean" politician.

Traditional cure is pick-me-up for Hong Kong

FROM JILL MCGIVERING IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG is launching a new industry with a product that is thousands of years old: Chinese traditional medicine.

Old Hong Kong was built on manufacturing, which has largely disappeared to cheaper parts of South-East Asia or southern China. Now, in an attempt to fill the vacuum, there are radical new ambitions to develop the territory into an international centre for Chinese medicine.

As interest in holistic medicines grows, Hong Kong — international but now part of China — finds itself in a unique position to cash in.

"Mainland China has a lot of research and several thousand years of experience," says Dr Daniel Tse, a leading government adviser on the development of Chinese medicine. "But they lack credibility in terms of quality control and knowledge of the world market. These are the things Hong Kong is very good at."

Dr Tse says that, before the Second World War, Chinese medicine was the main service available to the population. But when public health was developed, the Government excluded it from the public sector, although it was still available privately. "The attitude was leave it alone — if it dies, it dies, if it lives, it lives," says Dr Tse. "As a result, there's been no legal framework on which Chinese medicine could develop. It did a lot of damage."

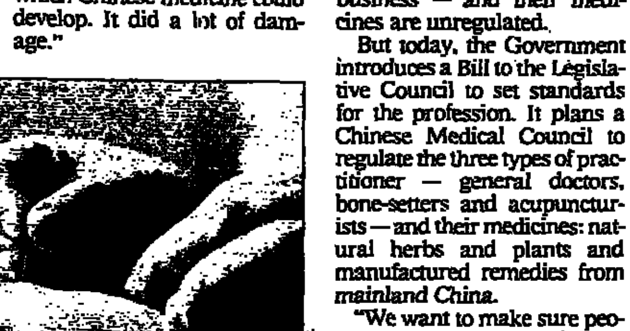
The new plans also fit Hong Kong's fresh political direction. The 18 months since the handover have brought a new emphasis on Chinese culture. Schools have been converted to Chinese-language teaching and the Chinese national flag and anthem are subtly pushed. About half the Hong Kong population uses Chinese medicine on a regular basis, often in conjunction with Western drugs.

The territory's 7,000 practitioners have varying levels of training, if any. Many work in dimly lit shops lined with shadowy jars of herbs, roots and animal parts. Anyone can set up business — and their medicines are unregulated.

But today, the Government introduces a Bill to the Legislative Council to set standards for the profession. It plans a Chinese Medical Council to regulate the three types of practitioner — general doctors, bone-setters and acupuncturists — and their medicines: natural herbs and plants and manufactured remedies from mainland China.

"We want to make sure people who use it have confidence it is safe," says Katherine Fok, the Secretary for Health and Welfare.

The long-term goal is for all Chinese medical doctors to be graduates in the subject and have to pass a licensing examination.



Hope is being pinned on treatments like acupuncture



GENE J. PUSKAR / AP

Phil the groundhog with handler Bill Dealy after leaving his burrow yesterday

Groundhog has his day as cruelty campaigners fail

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PHIL the Groundhog got a nasty surprise when he poked his nose out of his burrow on Gobbler's Knob in the Pennsylvania town of Punxsutawney shortly before dawn yesterday.

Not only did the town's famous giant rodent find thousands of onlookers waiting for him to predict this winter's weather. He also stepped into the centre of a controversy about the use of animals in the midwinter festival known to Americans as Groundhog Day.

An old Germanic superstition, transplanted to the New World, holds that if a groundhog casts a shadow on February 2 — the Christian holiday of Candlemas — then bad weather is coming. If there is no shadow, spring will soon arrive.

It has been 110 years since emigrant Germans began holding Groundhog Day ceremonies in Punxsutawney, making it the leading such event in America.

This year, however, the celebration attracted the wrath of animal rights campaigners who insist that Phil ought to be left in peace. The group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, tried unsuccessfully to enlist Bill Murray, the actor, in a campaign to get the event cancelled.

"Someone's got to speak up for the groundhogs," said Dan Matthews, for the organisation. "This poor creature is dragged into the daylight with people screaming at him. You only have to look into his eyes to see how bewildered he is." The organisers in Punxsutawney answer that the nine-year-old Phil lives in comfort, and has his well-being monitored by the state.



Bill Murray: declined to join the protests

The crowd of 15,000 cheered when Phil was unable to see his own shadow — meaning an early spring.

☐ Wiarton, Ontario: The crowd at Canada's main Groundhog Day festival mourned the death at 22 of its star groundhog, Wiarton Willie. He was placed in a coffin with his paws crossed, clutching a carrot. (AP)

LINKS

www.groundhogs.com/index.htm — The website of Punxsutawney Phil.
www.groundhog.org/ — The history and significance of Groundhog Day.
members.aol.com/grndhogiwr/ A site exalting groundhogs everywhere.

Hussein 'holding up' after operation

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan yesterday completed his second bone marrow transplant in two months in a desperate attempt by doctors in the US to halt the spread of lymphatic cancer and postpone the serious instability that his death would provoke in the Middle East.

Speaking from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, Jordan's Ambassador to the US, Marwan Muasher, said after the transplant was completed that the 63-year-old monarch was "holding up very well" but "he is going to go through a difficult period for the next two weeks. He will be under close monitoring in case of complications either from the bone marrow or chemotherapy".

The ambassador said that the early indications were "very good". He added that during the crucial two-week monitoring period "every day that passes is a plus for him — increases his chances".

Foreign medical experts said that it was possible the King might spend the fortnight sealed in an immunisation tent to minimise the danger of infection which in his weak condition could prove lethal.

Part of the tragedy of the King's relapse, only days after his triumphant homecoming supposedly cured after six months of treatment in the United States, resulted from possible infection arising from his shaking hands with or embracing more than 2,000 of his citizens and riding 15 miles in the rain in an open-top car.

Last night millions of Jordanians were tuned to foreign broadcasting stations or using the Internet to get word of the King's health, as censorship in the Jordanian press and television has made them mistrustful of ever finding out the truth from their own media.

Ban on live TV audience

Jerusalem: Israel state television and radio yesterday banned audiences from live political programmes as a leading show host expressed fears that someone might be killed during a broadcast (Ross Dunn writes).

An unruly mob of pro-government supporters hurled abuse and spat at opposition political figures during a current affairs programme.

Threat of Timor war grows

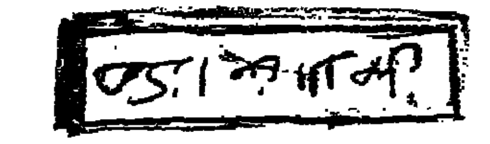
FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S leading non-governmental aid agency said last night that civil war was inevitable in East Timor unless Indonesian troops withdrew soon.

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid wrote to Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, urging prompt action to speed the removal of Jakarta's troops and their replacement with United Nations peacekeepers. "Our letter sets out our deep concern that civil war is inevitable, if not imminent, in East Timor unless there is some quick and strong action to defuse the situation," Janet Hunt, the director, said.

For the past two decades the Australian Government has toed the Jakarta line, for fear of displeasing the Indonesian Government or jeopardising oil and gas agreements.

The commander of the Indonesian Army, General Wiranto, admitted yesterday that supporters of East Timor's integration with Indonesia are being armed amid reports that thousands of villagers are fleeing clashes between pro- and anti-integrationist forces south-west of the capital, Dili. Meanwhile Jakarta yesterday decided to give greater autonomy to regional administrations, which have long resented Jakarta's control over their natural resources and development.



Wake me in a year or so…

A US anaesthetist believes that suspended animation may soon be possible, bringing significant medical advances. **Anjana Ahuja** reports



WARNER BROTHERS

Mel Gibson in the film *Forever Young* — a Hollywood fantasy, perhaps, but some scientists believe that a form of suspended animation can be achieved within five years

Can human beings hibernate? Surgeons hoping to perform certain operations, such as delicate neurosurgery, are able to cool patients down so much that their life signs disappear for about an hour. Now that scientists know it can be done, some have started searching for techniques that will allow people to be "shut down" indefinitely.

The spin-offs would be tremendous — people needing organ transplants could be "suspended" until suitable organs are found. Severe burns victims, who normally die from infections within days, could be cooled down to temperatures too low for bacteria to thrive. While they are suspended, patches of their own skin could be grown for grafts. Space travellers could be put into suspended animation and reawakened at far-off destinations.



Professor John Hartung

While cryogenicists — who advocate deep-freezing bodies so they can be thawed out at a later date — cannot look to the living world for proof that their technique will work, there are plenty of warm-blooded mammals, such as bats and dormice, for whom hibernation is part of their natural life cycle.

The cooling technique already in use carries risks and is therefore used only on patients likely to die within a year. Those with a giant basalar artery aneurysm — the swelling of a blood artery close to the brain stem — are prime candidates. The first step in the procedure is to insert a heart bypass. Then the circulating blood is passed through a machine, which cools it. At between 14C and 18C (normal body temperature is 37C), circulation stops. There is no pulse, no heartbeat, no electrical signals. (Yogis can reportedly achieve this through willpower alone.) Neurosurgeons can then enter the brain and clip out the aneurysm.

"If you don't cool the patient down and stop their circulation, it's like working on a car with the engine running," says John Hartung, Professor of Anaesthesiology at the State University of New York. Even so, there is no guarantee that patients will emerge unscathed from the experience — about one in five dies. "The difficulty is not the surgery itself," he says. "It's when you cool things down."

The problem lies with the nerve cells in the brain that ferry messages back and forth. Professor Hartung explains: "Nerve cells send signals by opening channels that allow sodium to flow into the cells and potassium to flow out. When the patient is cooled down, these channels are plugged. However, sodium continues to leak through the plug into the nerve cells. So when the patient is warmed up again, the nerve cells become overwhelmed with sodium. Water moves around to compensate and this causes swelling. Blood can't push through because of the high pressure, and that's the end of the patient. What's going on in the brain can be compared to a battery; if left for long enough, the battery goes dead and can't be recharged."

Professor Hartung, who features in a documentary to be shown next week on the satellite channel UK Horizons, is a vociferous supporter of research into human hibernation. He feels that the key to success lies in dealing with the leaking sodium. He has been experimenting on rats, using tetrodotoxin (TTX), a poison found in the puffer fish. In small doses, the poison causes paralysis. In large quantities, it is fatal. Strangely, puffer fish are regarded as a delicacy in Japan. However, brave diners are at the mercy of chefs who must hold licences to cook the fish. While a small amount of TTX is said to cause a pleasurable tingling, about 70 people die each year from TTX poisoning. The poison has also been invoked to explain the phenomenon of zombies — people who apparently rise from the grave. Haitian medicine men who apparently have the power to turn people into the "undead" are known to use puffer fish in their herbal preparations. It is conceivable that "zombies" are individuals who have simply gone into temporary paralysis.

One of the effects of the toxin is to shut down sodium channels in the brain — exactly what is needed to counter the problem of sodium leakage. "I have given TTX to rats, cooled them down from their normal temperature of 38C right down to 1C, kept them there for a couple of hours, and then brought them back," Professor Hartung explains. "The problem was it didn't always work. I wasn't always able to wake them. I didn't know how to remove the TTX to get the sodium channels working again."

What he needed was an antidote to TTX, which does not exist. However, a few groups around the world, including researchers in the United States Army, claim to have found chemicals that greatly diminish TTX's deadliness.

Professor Hartung, who plans to explore these new findings, thinks that, with the will and the money, the first patients could be going into "shutdown" within five years.

Professor John Hallenbeck, of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, near Washington, is cautious: "There are undoubted benefits in applying hibernation to humans. But I am not sure how we would begin to approach it without having first understood how it takes place in animals. We do not know how hibernation is orchestrated, or what the master signals are."

He still hopes that such research may lead to treatments for circulatory disorders such as stroke.

Professor Hartung says, however, that "human hibernation may sound fanciful but it isn't far-fetched". Cryogenics, though, is "rather silly".

"We cannot freeze whole organisms. There is so much water in the human body that when you thaw it out, it falls apart. Yet there are warmblooded mammals who hibernate. If we can figure out how the bats and the ground squirrels do it, we should have enough information to do it with humans."

● Supernatural Science, *UK Horizons on Monday at 9pm.*

Capturing the comet's tail



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

ON SATURDAY the Stardust satellite is due for launch from Cape Canaveral in Florida, bound for the comet Wild 2. Its aim is to capture the comet's tail and bring it back to Earth. The tiny dust particles that make up the tail could help to answer a question once dismissed as scarcely worth consideration: did life begin in space?

When Sir Fred Hoyle and Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, of Cardiff University, suggested this 20 years ago, they were ignored. But the discovery of organic chemicals on Halley's Comet, and the claims made in 1996 of the detection of microfossils in a meteorite from Mars, changed things. Investigations of panspermia (as the theory is called) came to be seen as legitimate, says Professor Wickramasinghe, but unfortunately they were too late to influence the experiments on Stardust, which do not include any search for living microbes.

He is putting his faith in a cheaper experiment planned by the Indian Space Research Organisation. With collaboration from scientists at Cardiff, it intends to launch a series of balloons into the stratosphere and use them to collect samples of air at different heights. If the panspermia hypothesis is true, the Earth is bombarded by micro-organisms from outer space, which we cannot detect because they are identical to those already present on the Earth's surface.

Previous balloon experiments have detected micro-organisms at heights of almost 25 miles. There was also a hint that the number of microbes increased with altitude, which would certainly support the idea of an extraterrestrial source. But in the 1960s and 1970s, comparatively primitive techniques made it difficult to eliminate the possibility of contamination by microbes from the surface of the Earth.

The key, then, is to ensure absolute sterility of the pumps that will suck in the air, and highly sensitive techniques for detecting any bacteria or other microbes in the air once it has been brought back to Earth. Microbes of extraterrestrial origin would be expected to contain different ratios of isotopes of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen from terrestrial ones, enabling a clear identification to be made.

How many microbes might be picked up? Professor Wickramasinghe has attempted a calculation. It is estimated that about 500 tons of extraterrestrial material reaches the Earth from space every day. Any microbes contained within it would be starved of nutrients and in a state of suspended animation, which means they would be very small. Estimating their mass, and guessing that one particle in every 100 reaching the Earth is a microbe, he concludes that there might be as many as 1,000 per litre of air at a height of 30km. Since the balloon can take a sample of 50 to 100 litres of air, it could capture as many as 100,000 microbes — well above the detection level.

The balloon could be flown by the end of this year, at a cost of £150,000. Most will be provided by the Indian Government, but the UK end of the project needs to raise £50,000. Grants are to be sought from the research councils — but other sources would be equally welcome.

Magnetic migration



LAST YEAR the magnetic north pole migrated north by 20km, measurements taken in Greenland by the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI) show. This is 10 per cent faster than a year ago, and "the quickest movement since we started measurements in Greenland in 1928", says Torsten Neubert, the head of the DMI's solar terrestrial physics department.

The magnetic pole constantly moves, because the interior motions of the Earth that generate the magnetic field are inconstant. In the past the poles have flipped over many times, north becoming south and *vice versa*. According to Physics Web (http://physicsweb.org) Dr Neubert thinks that the accelerating movement and the weakening of the field by 1 per cent in the past decade means another flip could occur by the end of the next millennium. This would be bad news. "In the period up to a reversal, the magnetic field would lose its strength and no longer be able to protect Earth from radiation from space. We could be exposed to violent cosmic radiation," he says. But other physicists suggest that the pole would have to be moving towards the Equator, not the true pole, to make a flip likely.

The safe syringe



MANY syringes are designed to be used once, then thrown away. In reality they are often used more than once, particularly by drug addicts. Sharing syringes increases the risk of infection, and the fact that used ones still have needles sticking out of them poses a danger to doctors, dustmen and anybody else who comes across them. The ideal would be a syringe which, once used, retracted its needle and became both useless and safe.

The Sintef group, a contract research organisation based in Norway, says it has achieved this. Its new needle is mounted against the pressure of a spring, and locked in place by a small "bolt" made from alginates, the carbohydrates made by seaweeds and widely used as thickening agents in the food industry.

Alginates are soluble in water, and all medications being injected are dissolved in water, so as soon as the syringe is filled, the locking bolt starts to dissolve. Within minutes the bolt dissolves and the spring pulls the needle back into the body of the syringe, out of harm's way. This gives plenty of time to use it, but only once.

The syringe should be ready for market testing this year.

'You havin' a baby?' asks the cab driver, incredulously

Tuesday: Joanna is depressed. The due date for our baby has come and gone with *no sign of nativity*. This morning BabyCentre.com, the website for the *expectoranti*, has fired off an automatically generated message of congratulations, based on our due date. "The long wait is finally over!" it confidently pronounces. "You've delivered *your* baby, brought him home, and — now what?"

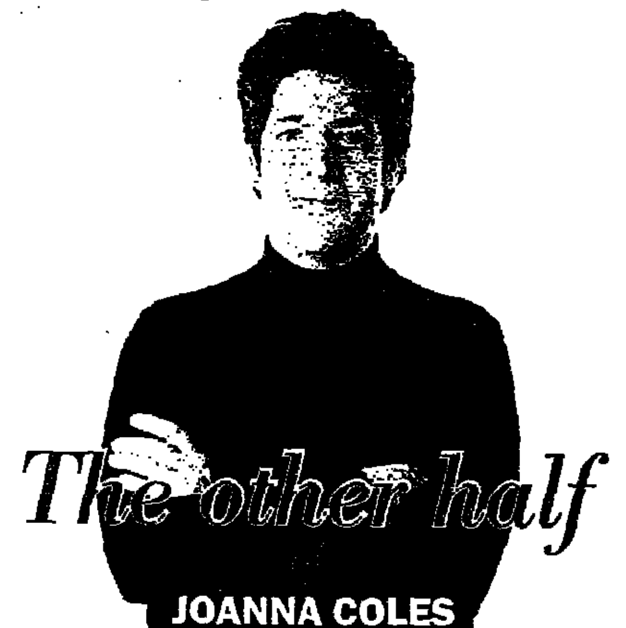
Well-meaning friends keep calling to see if we have produced, and with each call Joanna gets more fretful. "I feel like this baby is never going to come out," she moans. She deals with her mounting frustration in a New York kind of way. She goes shopping. With every deadline-defying day we *accumulate* more infantalia. Baby *tschotkes* (baubles) line the nursery, stuffed toys spill off the shelves, there are piles of chenille receiving blankets, drawers full of Babygros. Today's *addition* is a musical mobile of the solar system, with the Earth, Moon, Saturn and an arbitrary star revolving slowly around a smiling yellow Sun to the tune of Brahms's *Lullaby*. I assemble it and wind up the melody a couple of times and already the tune is driving me nuts. I find myself humming a sinister interpretation of it, like the soundtrack to a horror movie.

Wednesday: "Oh, how humiliating," Joanna groans. She has received another e-mail, this time from a couple in our birthing class — Susan, the lawyer, and Neta, the Israeli computer-programmer — proudly *announcing the successful* birth of their baby daughter. "They were *supposed* to be two weeks after us," she complains.

"It's not a race, you know," I point out, but Joanna is in no mood for placation. "We should be enjoying this time," I say. "It'll be the last time we have alone together, the last *time we have any peace.*" *But* the truth is I am humming with impatience myself, eager to end this dragging transition and get on with trying to make all those compromises that friends have gleefully warned us about.

My conversation with Joanna is giving me a headache as her eye-line keeps bobbing about. She is bouncing on her Gymnic ball, a *vast blue plastic* inflated ball, reminiscent of those Space Hoppers of our youth but without the stubby handles to hold on to. She has read somewhere that diligent Gymnic ball bouncing can help to *induce labour*. "A baby is not something you dislodge," I object. "And neither *is it some foetal dangerous-sports* junkie who comes flying down the birth canal like a bungee-jumper, hanging on to the umbilical cord for *dear* life."

Behind my bluster, however, *there lurks a deep apprehension*. Somehow, in the process of birthing classes, Joanna has fallen in thrall to our birthing instructor's proselytising zeal for natural birth *and I seem to have been manoeuvred* into the role of labour coach. The *whole thing* strikes me as slightly scary; I feel as if we have stumbled into a cult. This is not what I wanted at all. I had imagined myself pacing expectantly about the waiting room, a couple of vintage cigars in my top pocket, waiting for a starched nurse with hair clipped to her hat to announce the birth of *my child*. Now I have been conscripted to the sharp end *— no place for a male civilian.*



Thursday: Our entire day is given over to medical probing. At St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital on 60th Street, a silent Chinese technician carries out a sonogram to check that the baby is still dunked in sufficient *amniotic fluid*. Apparently it is. Then on to an appointment with the obstetrician on Central Park West. I stand in the corner of the surgery, facing the wall, pretending to inspect a family planning calendar while Joanna hops on to the examining chair. Each of the stirrups, I notice, has been thoughtfully sleeved in a striped oven glove.

"If there are still no signs of *labour by early next week*, we will have to perform an intervention," the obstetrician says. This, it seems to me, is the language of Special Forces, up there with surgical strikes. The vocabularies of medicine and war seem to be converging. When we get home, Joanna's Gymnic bouncing is particularly frantic. She *cannot bear the humiliation* of having to be induced. At 7pm she comes into my study, pale-faced. "I think I may be having contractions." This is not an especially noteworthy remark however, as she says it most days. But as *the evening wears on*, the contractions become stronger and quicker. At 10.30, we phone the obstetrician on call who sounds reluctant to come in all the way from her home in Nyack, a pretty faux fishing village on the west bank of the Hudson, an hour from the city, for a *possible case of* false labour.

> Joanna emits a long groan and *his* eyes widen in alarm

Two hours later Joanna *is* gasping with the pain of it, pacing about and trembling uncontrollably. I try to time the contractions but I appear to have forgotten even the most basic tenets of my Intensive Lamaze Birthing Course.

Do you time from the beginning of one contraction *to the end* of the next? Or *from the end of* one to the end of the following one? At 2am, Joanna can bear the pain no longer and I buzz down to the doorman and ask him to hail a cab.

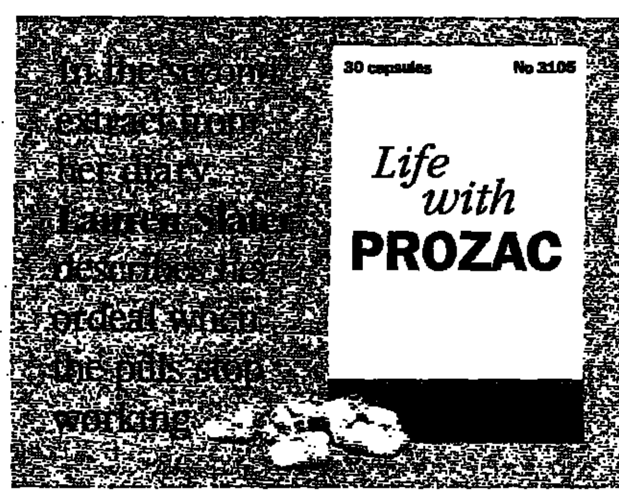
We stand silently in the descending lift surrounded by sufficient baggage for a long-haul holiday, and I realise that we will, if all goes well, be returning with a third person. The overnight doorman is girded against the freezing damp in a uniform that would earn the envy of a Ruritanian general on a Gilbert and Sullivan stage.

"The very best of luck, sir," he wishes. *He pumps my* hand cordially and holds open the cab door. As I duck into the cab I see that the illuminated neon wedge on its roof features a pair of cuffed wrists. "1-800-Innocent," its caption touts, "when you're only allowed to make one call." The taxi driver tips up the peak of his baseball cap and checks out the scene in his rear-view mirror. Joanna *emits a long, quavering groan* and his eyes widen in alarm. "*You havin' a baby?*" *he asks* incredulously, as though no one in Manhattan could be so primitive as to procreate.

"I bloody well hope so," pants Joanna and the driver roars off, savouring the moment of drama on an otherwise sleepy week night. Soon we are hurtling down the deserted concrete canyon of West End Avenue, treating the string of late amber lights and early reds against us like so much surplus Christmas decoration.

PETER GODWIN

Prozac is no longer my lover



I fell in love one day— with my pill, not a person. Prozac brought me to pumpkin muffins, yellowfin tuna and plum sauce. It brought me to Harvard, where I was accepted to study — what else? — psychology. So eventually my heart was wooed.

Then, in a way I can't quite define, I came to need it. I began *to fear a nuclear war only* for the effect that it would have on pharmacies. As I rode on the broad back of Prozac, I felt the hospitals were far away. I got used to health, then I got good at it. Ivy League school. Friends.One morning, I woke reaching for Prozac the way *you reach for his hand. My fist* closed on the bottle, the connection was complete.

I decided to accept Prozac completely, to declare it an essential, inseparable part of me, my partner in life. To mark this transition, I moved out of my basement apartment. I'd been living in that dank place for longer than I could recall. *I loved my new* place. The French doors, the *white walls, the floors of oiled* oak. At school, for the first time, I got all the good grades and impressed people. I took piles of courses. Into my life at this time came a real man. It should come as no surprise that Bennett was a chemist, that he passed his time among *swan-throated* glassware and Pyrex *pipettes, that in* the back pocket of his khakis he always kept a copy of the atomic chart, which he liked to read to me instead of romantic poetry.

In the midst of my *affairs* with *my* medicine and my boyfriend, I decided to take a trip. Mental illness has many qualities, foremost among them its smallness and ridiculous repetition. I was a boring *madwoman*. Almost all I could discuss was the number of times I'd tapped on the stove, the number of calories I'd consumed or how blah I felt. Somewhere in the world, I knew, there were golden cupolas and oceans that looked like moving marble. Now, a well woman, I wanted *some part of* it. I decided on Kentucky because *that's where I got the* grant to do the thesis research that *would support* my trip. I went in the summer, a terrible *time to go*, the temperatures hit 100F day in, day out.

What did I know? What did my doctor know? He was East European, and couldn't warn me about the weather in the South. But he might have warned me about other things. "Great idea," said the doctor, writing a three-month prescription — 278 pills, enough to fill four fat amber vats.

I, who had barely been out of Boston, drove across *the* country, powered by the passion of Prozac. *I began having* trouble sleeping. Two weeks into my trip, *I woke up a mad*woman again: the Prozac had stopped *working*. I started to tap and touch things. Crack-ups are always terrible, but this was so sudden, and so complete.

> Crack-ups are always terrible, but this was so sudden

It was also humiliating. "She is odd," I heard Great-Aunt Mary whisper to Kat, the mother of the family who had kindly agreed to house me.

"May I use your phone?" I squeaked. From across the *country I heard the ringing in* the doctor's office: he was on vacation.

"Come to church," Kat said. "You're suffering from some city sickness." She reached out, smoothed back my sweaty hair. She led me to the preacher, who painted a cross of oil on my forehead and told God to get a move on and make me well *right here*. Right now.

"I'm well," I said, blinking.

"She's well!" the preacher shouted in jubilant tones. The church went into overdrive, *everyone clapping* and praising the Lord. I felt guilty: I didn't feel any better at all, but thought it would be polite to say I did. They practically wanted to crown *me for letting the Lord in*, and so quickly at that. Oh, it was nothing, I said, smiling. I was bothered by the feeling of oil on my forehead. I swore it was dripping. I kept wanting to count the drips.

It took *Kat and Great-Aunt* Mary only a few hours to see *that* I was *not* well. A soon as they saw me walking backwards, they knew. "The Lord works in mysterious ways," I said. "If He has entered my life once, maybe He will again."

I wasn't picturing the Lord when I said that. I was, of course, picturing Prozac.

When the doctor finally got back, I was sick as a dog. "*What happened?*" I said, frantic.

"*It's Prozac poop-out.*"

"Why didn't you warn me?" I asked. "*I had really come to* love, I mean depend, on this stuff, *for my functioning.*"

"It's OK," the doctor said. "We *can up your dose.*"

"What happens when we have a poop-out problem with the higher dose? Do we keep upping my dose until I die?"

But I wasn't going to take more, and get better, only to fall flat on my face again. The point wasn't the higher dose; it *was getting my relationship* with the pill back. And I didn't see how that would happen, now that I had been betrayed.

Maybe I was tired of grovelling. Or maybe, more likely, the rage at the doctor, the rage *at the illness*, the rage at the two-timing pill, rose up and *ran over. Because there was a* time, at the end of my Kentucky trip, when things shifted. Exhausted with counting and checking, I had finally fallen into a dreamless sleep. I woke up suddenly, a howl in my mouth, my hands clenched. And then I was outside, walking, *pushing past the need to* count before every blessed *step. I was* sick of being betrayed. I was sick of being so thoroughly and pathetically passive. I was walking, thinking these angry thoughts, when from across the field I saw a funnel form, black and spinning, almost woolly. Good. A tornado. I'd punch it *out. No problem.* I had lost *my* mind. I held my ground as this bit of black weather approached me. My mind got very quiet. I lifted.Then the funnel moved off.

I had come to the end, which *is also* the beginning. Over the next few days, even in the thicket of obsessions, moments occurred, split-second snappings of a shutter, the click of freedom. Then closed. I *wondered if I could* make these snippets enough for me,

> I'd really come to love, I mean depend, on this stuff

A week after the devil duster, I followed the doctor's suggestion and upped my dose. I didn't die. I am still here. I could-up my dose precisely because I learnt, in that field *in* Kentucky, that *I didn't* absolutely need to, that if the *higher dose betrayed me*. I *had* found something in myself to *fall back on*. The *higher* dose did help, though. Some of the *one two three;* tap tap tap, step on the crack or break your *mother's* back receded, but Prozac never again made me as well as it once had. It is not my lover any longer, but over the very long haul has become a friend, whose presence can considerably ease pain but cannot erase it. And, really, the relationship is better that way — even though I mourn the passing of my passion — because the great break-up *has* forced me into my own muscles. I lift weights at the gym now. I am superb on the StairMaster.

Yesterday I had a bad afternoon, and then I noticed a bit of beauty. "Stop checking the *stove for a moment*," *Bennett* said to me. "Come watch my *Datura ferox* bloom."

Sometimes when I cannot go to sleep because I must inspect the battery in every smoke detector. Bennett comes into the *hall, rubbing one eye, and* looks at me up there, on the ladder. "*Come down*," *he* says.

I wish I was 100 per cent in my mind. On a good day I am 70 per cent. On a bad day the repetitions and the grief cannot be counted.

"Come down from there," my *Bennett says*. I come down.

"You're obsessing," he says. "A blip in the serotonin system." He comforts me, takes me *to him, and in his* touch I feel how I am human.

"I'm going to write a book, about Prozac," I said one day.

"Excellent. I am in favour of projects that increase our understanding of drugs. *What will* the chapters be about?"

"*At least one about sex.*"

When Prozac was first marketed sexual *problems* were reported in 1 to 2 per cent of users. Some doctors now report sexual dysfunction in 40 to 50 per cent of their Prozac patients. I know about the problems that can come with long-term intimacy, the blah sensation when you have traced every nook and link in your lover's body. Believe me, though, the distance of which I speak is different. It is physical. It is local. I am not at all bored by Bennett, but it is as though I have been injected with Novocaine at a very specific spot.

Ten years have passed since I started the drug. Sometimes my hands shake. Last night I felt an odd flutter in my eyes. I know Prozac can have long-term side-effects, but because it is still relatively new, research*ers can't say exactly what those* might be. Lately I have become concerned about Prozac and memory. I have tried to stop taking the drug several times. I always break up. Maybe not at first. There have been a few weeks when I soared through space, and saw the stars as *peaceful*. But *eventually*, there's a little splitting sound, then a big kaboom, and the wreckage is a mess. Last time I tried going off it I became obsessed with dogs and spent $600 on books about them.

But I am also aware that on the days Prozac works, I am *powered beyond me*, *and* pushed into a realm where unfair advantage becomes mine. It could be that my "amazing" productivity (completion of a doctoral programme in two years, becoming a psycholo*gist, director of the clinic* where I now work, lecturer, writer and furniture restorer) is not so much due to the "cure" but to the experience of illness, which means I grasp whatever I can, take in time as though it were in short supply.

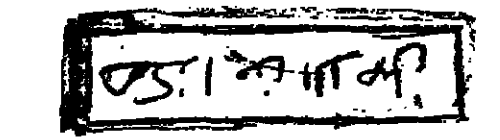
Prozac takes much away — my cognition may be fraying, and my libido may be down— *but its presence* in my *life has* been about preserving as well *as decaying. About remembering* as well as forgetting.

● *Extracted from* Prozac Diary, *to be published this month by Hamish Hamilton at £9.99.* Times *readers can buy it for £8.99 through* The Times *Bookshop, 0990-134 459.*

● *LINKS: all responsible websites emphasise that you should see your doctor before you consider taking Prozac. www.mentalhealth.com/drug/p30-p05.html: the Mental Health site, designed by a Canadian psychiatrist, has a useful list of information about the drug.*

DES JENSON

Lauren Slater: "On the days that Prozac works, I am powered beyond me, and pushed into a realm where unfair advantage becomes mine"



Slaves to political correctness

Sense and sensitivity conflict in this multicultural nation

It has been a week when race, once again, has seemed a candidate for America's most intractable problem.

It is not that there has been a new act of racist brutality, although there has been a powerful reminder of one, with the preliminaries beginning in the trial of three white Texans who are accused of dragging a black man to death. The latest provocation has not been tragic but, instead, bitterly comic. The nation has been divided by one wayward word. The "niggardly" row, as it has become known, has swept the country, driving Monica Lewinsky from the scripts of talk show hosts and late-night comics.

The affair erupted when a white Washington city official lost his job for using "niggardly" in a budget meeting. The word caused offence to a black colleague who misunderstood its meaning. The first two syllables were taken as a slight.

The official in question, David Howard, was until January 27 the head of Washington's Office of Public Advocate. The word was appropriately used: the city's budget is, indeed, mean and pinched. But after ten days of accusations that he had used the "N-word", Mr Howard resigned, making an abject apology for his failure to foresee potential misunderstanding by those unfamiliar with the word.

It was not just those outside the United States who found the action ridiculous and outrageous. Columnists and newspaper editorials across the country denounced the "linguistic lynching" and the "tyranny of ignorance".

It is easy to mock the crippling political correctness, and miss the extent to which racial relations in America are no joke. The hair-trigger sensitivities of this week's farce show that the question of what it takes to glue so many different types of people together into one country is still unsettled.

It was no surprise that the dispute happened in the capital. During the lengthy stewardship of the city's Mayor, Marion Barry, it has been a showcase for racial tension at its worst. Mr Barry was a figurehead for many as a result of his leading role in the 1960s Civil Rights movement, but his period in office was marked by incompetence and racial division.

The "niggardly" row startled many, however, because it happened under a new Mayor who promised a fresh start. The current incumbent, Anthony Williams, is black and Harvard-educated. He has been hailed as the city's saviour by much of its middle class, both black and white. But he is already under fire from some black commentators for "not being black enough". Sensitivity to that complaint is thought to be part of the reason why Mr Williams instantly accepted Mr Howard's resignation, even though Mr Howard had been key to his election campaign.

And even though academics took his side. Linguistic professors had their 15 minutes of fame, telling the nation that "niggardly" had its roots in the middle-English word for miserly, while the "N-word" for which it had been mistaken was derived from Spanish or Latin. By many, that argument was taken as the end of the matter. Julian Bond, the chairman of the Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called "niggardly" a "perfectly good word".

But it was striking how many people felt that the word's origins were irrelevant. "It just sounds so bad" was one common response. Jesse Jackson, preacher and civil rights leader, spoke for many when he said: "You've got to be pretty heavy to get into the Scandinavian roots of a word from two centuries ago."

It would be a rash politician who now used the word. In fact, it is probably doomed now to disappear from American debate. It is not that America is losing its passion for the principle of free speech. The dispute came just as a federal court blocked a popular new law which would require Internet pornography sites to demand a credit card number or other proof of being an adult before giving access. Granting an injunction against the Act, the judge said that children would suffer more in the end from the erosion of their rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution than they would from exposure to smut.

Bronwen Maddox

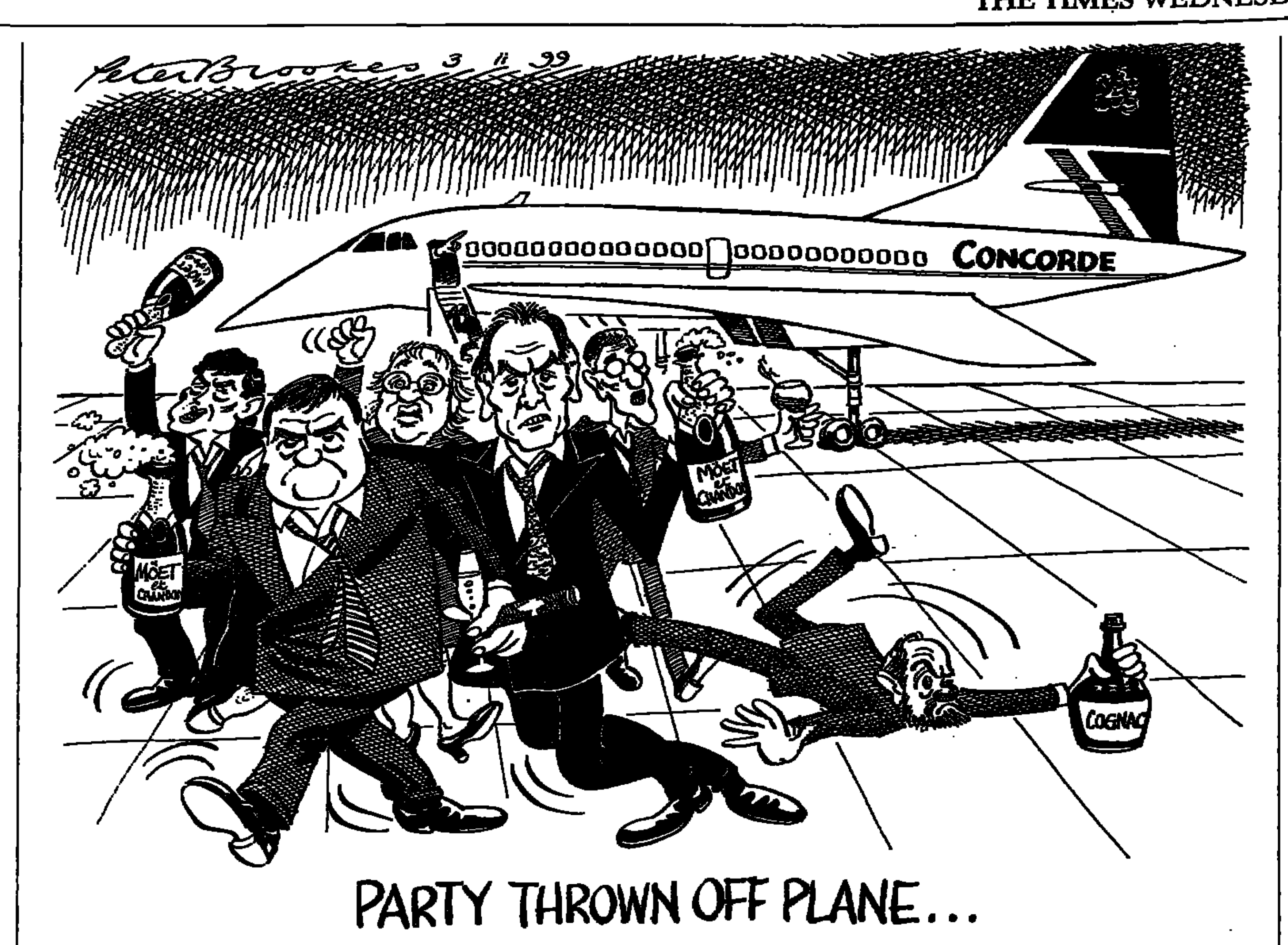
The debate is a painful reminder of the suspiciousness towards language that runs through American public life. In a deeply symbolic culture, given to much analysis of "what is really meant" by a phrase or a gesture, words matter. Offence is quickly taken. Neither in Congress nor on television is there the confident verbal rough-housing of the House of Commons or a Jeremy Paxman.

Even more, though, the dispute shows how deeply the sores of racial tension run, 134 years after the end of the Civil War. It is a reminder of how deeply the ideals of the American project were compromised from the start by slavery, and the power racial issues retain to split the country.

Of course, the "niggardly" row is absurd. Farce aside, it also represents a worrying principle. To all the rights in the Constitution, many would like to see a new one added: the right not to be offended, even if for an utterly irrational reason. That instinct is not just illiberal but inapplicable in practice. Yet given the bitterness of the country's racial legacy, it is hard to dismiss the row as a joke. Political correctness is the country's balm of choice for past hatred.

"Niggardly" will not be the last word to fall victim to the spreading realm of the taboo. It is a minor casualty of the fact that the great American experiment started from an untenable point, and the country has not yet succeeded in making its black citizens feel recompensed for that injury.

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Married to the mob

Auditors turned a blind eye to crookery, and yet their power grows

The East Side Mob always did their own collecting. The black sedan would screech to a halt. Two men would enter the speakeasy and glide behind the curtain. Briefcases would change hands. The big one would smile, while the small one counted. "Dat," said the big one, "is my accountant. He go to college. He makes up da figures." Some day later the big one was found in the river with concrete shoes. The small one vanished.

Ever since Robert Maxwell disappeared in 1991 from the deck of his yacht, I have been awaiting news of the small one. Four hundred companies went under. Thousands of pensioners were robbed. Four hundred million pounds disappeared. Maxwell's acolytes had to take refuge at the court of King Blair. But the small man stayed vanished. He had taken with him, it was said, a cool £4 million in fees. He was known only as Coopers & Lybrand.

Yesterday he broke cover. He was seen at his club. The club is called the accountancy profession's watchdog, the Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS). It gave the loudest tut-tut it has ever emitted. While remarking that a more competent audit might have led to the "earlier recognition and exposure" of Maxwell's frauds, it could not find it in its heart to savage the mighty house of Coopers, especially in the now even mightier guise of the absurdly named "PricewaterhouseCoopers". It fined the firm a mere £1.2 million plus £2.1 million costs, hardly a single year's Maxwell audit fee. Needless to add, the money will not go to those whom Maxwell robbed. It will go to finance the JDS. Accountants, like lawyers, never lose. Self-censure is not so much a punishment, more a duelling scar.

Some of my best friends are accountants. Theirs can be a noble vocation. I have watched accountants save from disaster factories, schools, clubs, orchestras, theatre companies, even newspapers. They are the keeper of every purse, restraining the over-enthusiastic, the over-enterprising and the merely extravagant. Their metronomic calendar keeps us in order until the Great Reckoning in the sky. And of all accountants, external auditors are the noblest, beholden not to mere firms but to the shareholders, the public and the law.

A group of inarticulate London policemen have had their lives and reputations torn asunder for incompetent pursuit of the Lawrence case. They had failed to honour the trust placed in them by the community. The media treated them with all the contempt it could muster. The external auditor is also a policeman, except that he is paid by the policed. This conflict of interest is excused with an appeal to professional integrity. An external auditor may be accountable to a firm for his fee, but to his profession for his judgment. I am tempted to conclude that what in a working-class occupation would be seen as blatantly corrupt, in a middle-class one is a badge of pride.

Maxwell was Coopers' biggest client, netting the partnership tens of millions in fees over 15 years of scrutiny. In his biography of Maxwell, Tom Bower refers to his "relationship with the partners at Coopers, whose tolerance, understanding, and willingness to take the publisher's assurances on trust were a great comfort to him". Coopers had been Maxwell's auditors since the 1970s, just after Trade Department inspectors had declared him unsuited to run a public company. This did not put Coopers — or a galaxy of Labour notables — on their guard.

Simon Jenkins

According to yesterday's JDS report, Coopers' man at Maxwell's, the late Peter Walsh, was "of the old school". In accountancy-speak this meant that Walsh was under the spell of the man who paid his bills, and inclined his juniors to conduct favourable reports. At the subsequent inquiry, Coopers employees constantly pleaded the auditor's "fifth amendment": that their job was only to approve what was shown them. Their job was not to watch cash or intercompany loans. Yet they signed accounts which inflated the value of Maxwell firms and enabled him to continue his borrowings and frauds. This continued while every journalist was screaming Maxwell's crookedness up and down Fleet Street, gagged only by lawyers whom he lubricated as well as his auditors.

The JDS report concludes that "no member of the firm was suborned and there was no dishonesty". Instead Coopers partners were guilty only of what are called "quality of work" failings. These include "lack of objectivity and scepticism . . . and shortcomings in both vigilance and diligence . . . which might have led to the earlier recognition and exposure of the reality of what was happening". All of this, apparently, should in no way disqualify the four partners named in the report from continuing to practise. Gross incompetence in an accountant is formally declared to be no ground for dismissal. The only penalty imposed on individual partners is a tut-tut and in the case of one of them, John Cowling, a fine.

The fine on Mr Cowling is the strangest joke of all. "In our judgment," says the report, "the most serious of complaints in such circumstances could not justify a fine greater than £700." At first I assumed this to be a misprint. Surely for a tycoon of the profession found guilty in the worst case ever judged by his disciplinary body, the figure must be £700,000 on each complaint, or perhaps £70,000? But no, the fines on each count were of £400-£650, totalling £11,050. How does that compare with a negligent surgeon, banker, or travel agent, or the £2 million Carlton's film-makers were fined by the Independent Television Commission for falsely reconstructing a scene in a documentary? Such fines are an insult to every Maxwell pensioner, and a parody of self-regulation.

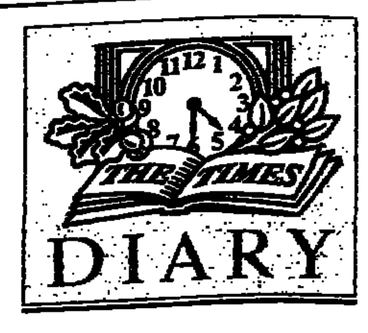
Accountants are claiming an every bigger role, not just in "corporate governance" but in public administration. Like health and safety inspectors, they answer not to democracy (except via some puny Commons committee) but to their profession. Just as private sector audit is revealed by the Maxwell affair as "fees without responsibility", so public sector audit is power without responsibility. Professional auditors "approved" such *grands guignols* as the Crown Agents, the British Library, Hackney and Lambeth councils and the administration of housing benefit. If that is audit, Heaven help us all.

The present Government is obsessed with value-for-money audit or VFM. This is a "top down" management technique, embracing performance indicators, objectives monitoring, output measurement and that annual orgy of mechanistic audit, the league table. Discretion once exercised by elected ministers and local councils has passed to such bodies as the local Audit Commission and the National Audit Office. They embody the triumph of the quantifiable over the important. They measure police car speeds, not neighbourhood security. The Audit Commission draws lovely league tables but does not blow the whistle on corruption or maladministration. It is the monkey that sees, hears and speaks no evil.

In his pamphlet *The Audit Explosion* (Demos), Michael Power issued a warning that audit was coming to assume "the status of an all-purpose solution to the problems of administrative control". It offered Whitehall a framework for keeping power while presenting an illusion of devolution. Value-for-money audit enabled ministers to tell teachers, doctors and policemen their preferred "performance measures", and then to blame them for failing to deliver. It is a control freak's charter, embodied in the person of David Blunkett. Mr Blunkett will not rest until every teacher and child in the land is under his statistical thumb from dawn to dusk.

Best-value audit is becoming the state religion of "Blatcherism". Not a ministerial speech passes without genuflexion to its name. So it must be. But who will audit the auditors? Surely it cannot be left to a profession that admits it should have fingered Robert Maxwell long before he set sail — but preferred instead to take his shilling.

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DIARY

Major oddity

GROUND control to John Major: the former PM's father inspired David Bowie to write *Space Oddity*, his seminal Sixties anthem.

Bowie tells me that he wrote about "Major Tom", the doomed astronaut, after remembering a fading theatre bill advertising Tom Major's circus act (left).

When Bowie (right) wrote the tune in 1969, Tom Major-Ball was living in Brixton, having left the circus to run his faltering gnome enterprise, and the singer — yet to grace the hit parade — was strumming in nearby Bermondsey.

Assuming this tale to be imaginative, I ask Bowie: "No, no," he assures me. "That is pretty close to the mark, but there is debate about dates." Bowie has, I understand, some trouble recalling the period.




● *JUST how badly do Tony Blair and Gordon Brown get on? Lord Lamont of Lerwick says: "The thesis that Blair and Brown are at each other's throats is nonsense. They get on far better than Margaret and Nigel — or John Major and I."*

Clerical cruise

SUN loungers at ten paces: the former Bishop of Durham is to go cruising. The Right Rev David Jenkins is to join a Swan Hellenic cruise of Greece and Turkey as a guest lecturer. Among his companions will be Lord Charteris of Amisfield, the Queen's former private secretary and erstwhile Provost of Eton. But after Jenkins's pernicious suggestion that the coronation should be secularised, it might be the cleric who receives lectures on the importance of the Church and State's relationship.

● *EARL SPENCER continues to follow in his sister's Gucci shoes. As his fire-damaged home in South Africa is rethatched, the Earl is to sprint down to Bournemouth to open a "drop-in centre" ("drop out", surely) for Aids types. His sister might have created a bigger stir, but at least Charles is trying.*

Common good

AFTER the financial damage done to Clapham Common property prices by Ron Davies's nocturnal ramblings, Neil Jordan is making amends. The film director is to shoot his version of Graham Greene's magnificent *The End of the Affair*, chronicling the doomed romance of a couple after meeting on the suburban swamp.

Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Phillips, the former wife of Bruce Springsteen, have been cast as the leads, which should help to restore the Common's prim reputation.



● *CHERIE BOOTH is to be the subject of a sculpture, crafted by Shenda Amery, who styled effigies of such new Labour gurus as Baroness Thatcher and John Major. Who pays is a secret, but Shenda says that it is "a top dollar commission". So new Labour.*

Flour power

BRITAIN'S secret weapon against the Russians: the scone. Our man in Moscow has ordered 220lb of white flour to be sent from Norfolk to his embassy. The plan: to disarm Cossack chums with epicurean ammunition.

"It's for trade," I am told. "When they taste cakes made with delicious English flour, they will want to buy British."

● *CHARLIE WHELAN: stand-up comic? The retired spinner has been visiting the Comedy Store, breeding ground for Ben Elton. So what is his best joke? "I don't recall any." Perhaps my memory is better.*

JASPER GERARD

'I can't be alone in the chagrin which strikes when a batch of jolly adverts makes way for some duff programme about vets or cooks'

When you hear that today's persiflage is being brought to you by a man in an understatedly elegant Turnbull & Asser shirt cosseted by an immensely comfortable Eckorness swivel-chair in front of his truly incomparable Apple Macintosh word-processor, sipping a Selfridge cup of stimulating Douwe Egbert Colombian coffee and puffing at a Silk Cut Extra Mild commendably low in tar yet astonishingly rich in flavour, you will instantly twig that he is a man in whose heart there has always been a special place for advertising. So special, indeed, that he has deliberately misused the word persiflage for the sole purpose of telling you that the best place to look it up and put him right is the matchless *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, a snip at £16.99.

Friends, you cannot imagine the joy I took in cobbling that paragraph. How refreshingly different it is from the inconsequential witterings with which I normally pester your Wednesdays! How packed to the gunwales with stout concrete stuff, not merely graphic and informative, but invaluable to readers still undecided about what to wear or drink or smoke or sit in or type on — and no less valuable to all the many manufacturers and distributors and retailers and ancillary tradesfolk whose livelihoods require the constant movement of goods, and thus, of course, to the national economy on whose vitality the welfare of each and every one of us depends. Think horseshoe nails, and you will very soon appreciate that the consequence of that first paragraph might well be a hip-replacement for poor hobbling Mrs Simpkins of Hull or an extra chemistry teacher for stony-broke Cricklewood Comprehensive. That there might also be a bob or two in it for me, we shall come to later.

Alan Coren

Now, I know I speak for all of us when I say that there is not nearly enough advertising about. I cannot be alone in the chagrin which strikes when a batch of jolly commercials all too soon makes way for the rest of some duff programme about vets or cooks; or when, eagerly grabbing my morning newspaper in the hope of a brand-new double-page spread trumpeting a Currys sale, I find nothing but towering columns of earnest editorial anent Kosovo or Hoddle; or when, on some hitherto delightful drive, enchanting urban billboards peter out to be replaced by a windscreenful of dreary green stuff and sheep; or when, in the small insomniac hours, Classic FM caringly interrupts a couple of Oistrakhs sawing away at Bach's Double Violin Concerto to suddenly lift the soul with an allegro haemorrhoid jingle.

So, then, did you not do joyous cartwheels at Monday's news that a new company called Freedom had got into snuggly bed with BT and other suppliers to provide a service whereby you and I will pay nothing at all for our telephone calls, provided we sign up to allow advertisements to be inserted into them? More cheering yet, many of these commercials will be interactive, empowering us — halfway through listening to our brother-in-law banging on about his alopecia — to order a pizza, join the Territorials, buy a previously cherished forklift truck, nice runner, no rust, or treble-glaze the chic cedarette extension we bought last week during a routine call to our dentist. And won't it, furthermore, make hanging on for half an hour even more fruitful than it is at present? For however much we all enjoy listening to 88 synthesizer choruses of *Volare* counterpointed by 88 captivating reminders that we are being held in a queue, these surely pale beside learning that C & A has a new range of exciting spring trousers, kindly state Visa number and inside-leg measurement after the bleep.

But, can you believe it, hardly had my joy at Freedom's inspired and much-needed expansion of advertising sunk in, than I suddenly saw that it also pointed the way to even more life-enhancing possibilities: why not introduce snappy commercials into all conversation? For, of course, a fee — albeit slightly smaller than the one for which I plan to invoice all those mentioned in my opening paragraph, which will have been read, with any luck, by a few more people than one would bump into in the pub. What fun, during some ponderous dinner-party natter about nannies or President Saddam Hussein, to pop in a trimly turned commercial extolling, say, mild green Fairy Liquid, thereby earning not merely the warm gratitude of guests who had not hitherto realised that hands that do dishes can be soft as your face, but also a quick couple of quid from Procter & Gamble.

Oh look, I have reached the point where this article needs a pay-off. Well, that makes two of us. So my message today is: Let Freedom Ring!



GLADSTONE'S SHADE

Why Kosovo? Why British troops? Blair must explain

On the eve of its 50th anniversary, Nato has taken a decision of great moment, of which the alliance's publics are barely aware and for which they are still less prepared. It is planning to deploy ground forces within a sovereign state, turning part of that state into a Nato protectorate: Nothing less is implied by the six-nation Contact Group's unanimously agreed strategy for Kosovo. On the Group's behalf, Robin Cook has summoned Yugoslav and Kosovan Albanian leaders to Rambouillet this weekend. If their signatures to an accord can be extracted, Nato ground troops are to police it. Should they fail, Nato has threatened, in effect, to bomb them back to the table. In this gamble for Balkan peace, British ministers have taken the lead, and British soldiers are likely to be the largest component of a peacekeeping force under British commanders. Gladstone's shade walks the Balkans.

What drives Western politicians is the knowledge that the near-truce secured by Richard Holbrooke last October is collapsing: fighting could imminently resume on a far greater scale. That would not only mean horrendous suffering for the Kosovans, a flood of refugees and a public outcry. It would entail strategic risks. The contagion could spread to Macedonia's large Albanian minority. A political collapse there could tempt Bulgaria and Greece to divide the corpse, inflaming Greco-Turkish tensions on Nato's southern flank. Damping down the Kosovo tinder is preferable to putting out a southern European blaze.

Hence Nato's decision to act now; but decisiveness as to the means is not matched by clarity about what "success" in Kosovo would entail. The deal falls halfway between Belgrade's insistence that Kosovo is part of Serbia and Kosovan demands, hardened by Serbian repression, for independence. The Contact Group has demanded that both sides sign an accord by February 19. The purpose of Rambouillet is not negotiation, but acceptance of the Contact Group's *diktat*. The plan includes a sharply reduced Serbian security presence in Kosovo but not a total withdrawal; enough self-government for Kosovo to free its Albanian majority from Belgrade's jurisdiction but no independence; and investigations of atrocities by The Hague's special tribunal. The American aim is that William Walker, the US head of the OSCE observer mission, would then act as pro-consul for three years, chairing talks on the final status of Kosovo, on which the Kosovans would vote in a referendum.

The outline of this plan has, however, been around for months, rejected by all. Rejection, in fact, is all that seems to unite what elusively passes for leadership in Kosovo. Yet Britain, France and Germany are firmly committed to send troops, in Britain's case possibly as many as 8,000. Russia is likely to join. And previously hostile opinion, in Congress and in the Pentagon, has abruptly shifted in favour of contributing a small US force. Compared with the long wrangling over Nato ground forces for Bosnia, the speed with which political plans have become a longterm military commitment is dizzying. But that is not because the prospects of success are greater than they were in Bosnia. Mr Cook insists that Nato soldiers will go in only when there is a peace to keep. In truth, they will go in because the alternative, an uncontrollable war, is too appalling, and too damaging to Nato, to contemplate.

Britain thus finds itself in a military venture whose eventual outcome is uncertain. The Western hope is that Mr Milosevic needs a Nato ultimatum to give him the excuse to relinquish control of a territory so alienated by Serb atrocities as to be uncontrollable except by massive force; and that even the most militantly separatist Kosovans will see that a Nato protectorate is in their interest. This is a gamble that logic of survival will win out over nationalist passion in a region where logic has the shallowest of roots.

The Government is right to have taken this lead. But Tony Blair needs urgently to explain why it is right for Britain, a middling power, to be so heavily engaged in the cause of wider peace. This question will be asked even if he persuades the country that Kosovo cannot safely be left to burn. He must convince anxious citizens that British troops will be there to serve the cause of European peace, not to fly the flag in support of his ambitions to demonstrate Britain's "leadership in Europe". He must guard against future accusations that the British people, whose support for this country's high military profile is a national strength, were in this case not given the full reasons for putting troops in harm's way. The people of this country understand well that a trading nation with global interests must be prepared to deploy its forces where international stability is threatened. But informed assent is the indispensable basis of public support.

THE HODDLE STORY

The former England coach is not a martyr

The fall of Glenn Hoddle was as necessary as it was inevitable. He had lost the support without which it was impossible to be the figurehead for the national game. He had failed to separate his rights of free speech from his duties as one of the most influential men in a game with vast influence over the life of Britain, particularly over the young. He compounded his original bizarre and irresponsible comments about the disabled with a series of inconsistent and incoherent attempts to pretend that *The Times* had somehow misrepresented him. English football, as well as English public life, will be better without him.

Naturally his sacking has prompted sympathy in some quarters. It has been suggested that his religious freedoms have been trampled in an irrational stampede of political correctness. Other concerned commentators have chosen to cast his fate in terms of Western intolerance of Eastern spirituality or the harsh secularism of a country that has become atheist in so many ways. The England coach has thus been presented to parts of the public as some sort of modern amalgam of St Stephen, Savonarola and Salman Rushdie.

Mr Hoddle is miscast as a martyr. His claims in this respect would be stronger if he had spent the past four days either vigorously defending his views or apologising. In his departure statement yesterday he thanked those friends in the media who had "tried to establish the truth". The truth has always been clear. Mr Hoddle has been in a state of denial of that truth, implying that his remarks, clearly recorded by our reporter Matt Dickinson, were inaccurate or that they had been distorted. At the same time as his agent was threatening legal action against *The Times*, Mr Hoddle was conceding in another newspaper interview that "The reporter from *The Times* did not misquote me but he did misinterpret me."

An England coach is not barred from spiritual views. But by speculating on deeper reasons for physical disability Mr Hoddle travelled into different territory. Neither is this a matter of undue sensitivity on the part of a lobby. Sport has taken on a transformed role in the lives of the disabled. Competitive events have expanded hugely. Sport has played an enormous role in breaking down the barriers between the handicapped and able-bodied.

This is indicative of a wider change in the importance of sport in society, and the relationship betwee them. An England football coach, like other sporting icons, is now quite properly considered a public figure in a fashion that would once not have been appropriate. Diplomacy is rightly an essential element of the job. Mr Hoddle was no stranger to these arrangements. His successor should ensure that he is able and prepared to live up to the full duties of the office.

FACE THE MUSIC

The new Controller of Radio 3 has a tough task ahead

Classical music may value harmony, but debate over its broadcasting has been less than melodic. Roger Wright, the new Controller of Radio 3, has to cater for an elaborate ensemble of tastes. The BBC's classical music network has been accused by some of elitism and inaccessibility, by others of pandering to populist tastes. Mr Wright well understands that it will take all his considerable experience to orchestrate a schedule to suit the broadest band of listeners.

Radio 3's commercial competitor, Classic FM, attracts wide audiences with an astute mix of favourite symphonies, sonatas and suites, carefully timed to accord with daily routines. Soothing classics ease exasperated commuters on the journey home, sprightly concertos rouse them once more the next morning. But, in an interview with *The Times* today, Mr Wright insists that his network "is not in the business of competing with Classic FM". The serious, educative traditions of Radio 3 will not be pushed aside by easy-listening entertainment. A compromise will be sought between corporate pressure to increase ratings and public obligation to broadcast the widest range of quality music.

Although many enjoy the immaculate recordings offered by the compact disc, to others such perfection seems sterile which is why Mr Wright plans to place greater emphasis on live performance. Differentiating itself from its commercial rival, Radio 3 will relay exciting events from the world of music and audiences will feel almost as if they are participating in international festivals. Mr Wright also intends to expand the remit of Radio 3, by broadcasting the capital's most talked about theatre productions. People in the regions may, one day, no longer need to go to the trouble and expense of travelling to the nearest major city to enjoy, for example, the latest Tom Stoppard or Patrick Marber.

Clearly Radio 3 is to continue to hold the high ground. But for Mr Wright to maintain his course amid a polyphony of conflicting ideas and demands, he will need not only the most determined cast of mind but the unwavering support of the BBC, not least if ratings between Radio 3 and Classic FM gape more widely.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

East Europeans in plea for Pinochet

From the Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and others

Sir, We are writing to express our opposition to the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet to Spain, and make public our support for his role in Chilean history.

All of us are senior political figures in Poland and the Czech Republic, many of whom in the past have experienced imprisonment, violence and other abuses of human rights. We have also suffered the government of communists and their Soviet masters.

The actions of General Pinochet in 1973 were instrumental in rescuing his country from the horrors of communist dictatorship, and preventing a strategic expansion of Soviet global interests at the height of the Cold War. That cause was one many of us fought in Central Europe too, forming a common front with others across the world.

The prosperity and stability of Chile today are also a testament to the rightfulness of the actions undertaken by General Pinochet. That stability is now jeopardised by the actions of the British and Spanish authorities.

Many of those opposed to General Pinochet are those who in the 1960s and 1970s were notably mute in the face of suffering by Central Europeans, and who were then quick to offer apologia for the numerous invasions, military coups and internment camps of the Soviets and their puppets in the heart of Europe.

We hope that General Pinochet will soon be free to return to Chile, where it will be for the Chilean people to determine his legal fate and historical legacy.

Yours sincerely,
MARCIN LIBICKI,
Vice-President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,
VACLAV BENDA,
Chairman, Office for the Investigation and Documentation of the Crimes of Communism, Czech Republic, 1994-98,
RYSZARD CZARNECKI,
Minister for European Integration, Government of Poland,
VIKTOR DOBAL,
Member, Czech Parliament, 1990-98,
ALEKSANDER HALL,
Member, Polish Parliament,
MAREK JUREK,
Member, National Radio & Television Council, Poland,
STEFAN NIESIOLOWSKI,
Member, Polish Parliament,
c/o Robertson & Associates,
104 Cambridge Street, SW1V 4QG.
roberassoc@aol.com
February 1.

Televising courts

From Sir Michael Davies

Sir, Sir Louis Blom-Cooper (letter, January 29) suggests that the Pinochet or a similar appeal in the House of Lords should be televised. If he means live and at length, the inevitable and interminable legal arguments would be deadly boring except to erudite lawyers, perhaps even to them. After initial interest, I am sure viewers would be numbered in hundreds not even thousands. Edited highlights would be no more attractive, because there are few if any highlights. The idea is commercially impracticable.

At the other end of the spectrum, the televising of the sensational O. J. Simpson and Louise Woodward trials certainly made compulsive viewing, but at such cost to the interests of justice that the likelihood of further public circuses thankfully seems to me to have been postponed indefinitely.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL DAVIES,
Elliot House, Wolverley,
Kidderminster, DY11 5XD.
January 31.

Full employment

From Mr John Grieve Smith

Sir, Christine Buckley's report and interview with David Blunkett (Business news, February 1) refers to full employment as "one of the great shibboleths of the Labour Left" and a "socialist dream". But the wartime vision of full employment was shared by people of all parties and expressed in the coalition Government's 1944 White Paper on Employment Policy.

Its subsequent attainment for over 25 years was an achievement of both Labour and Conservative governments. It was only in the 1980s that the deliberate maintenance of a substantial pool of unemployment became the accepted means of curbing inflation.

The fact that people now change jobs more often is not synonymous with the end of full employment. Indeed a strong demand for labour and the availability of alternative jobs facilitate industrial change.

The "social justice" and "social adhesion" to which David Blunkett aspires will only be achieved if full employment is once again put high on the political agenda, and the less skilled and less qualified are no longer left scrambling for insecure and ill-paid jobs at the bottom of the employment ladder.

Yours,
JOHN GRIEVE SMITH
(Author, *Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed*, Macmillan 1997),
Robinson College,
Cambridge CB3 9AN.
February 1.

Glenn Hoddle case casts light on freedom of speech

From the Headmaster of Abingdon School

Sir, I spent part of a current affairs period today discussing with some of my sixth-formers the reported views of Mr Glenn Hoddle about reincarnation. They spoke in impressively judicious tones about the likely impact of Mr Hoddle's remarks on disabled people. A number of them clearly felt that he had offended so gravely that he deserved to be dismissed from his post as England's football coach.

We became more animated, however, when I ventured to suggest that the opinions of a football manager, even of national status, upon a matter of religious conviction were hardly worth anybody's time — let alone that of leading politicians. I was given to understand, in no uncertain terms, that nothing could possibly be more important than football, that it was the essence of our national identity and that the officers of the game must be beyond reproach.

It was only when I put forward what was understood as a manifestly absurd proposition — that football is a waste of time and football managers utterly insignificant people — that my intelligent pupils could be brought to realise that the principle of freedom of thought might sometimes require the public toleration even of unattractive opinions. They were kind enough, at least, to refrain from calling for my immediate dismissal.

We then turned, with a sense of anticlimax, to Kosovo and constitutional reform in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
M. St JOHN PARKER,
Headmaster, Abingdon School,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1DE.
February 1.

From Mr Glynn Vernon

Sir, I have been disabled all my life; I have cerebral palsy, and like most disabled people I am well used to the misconception held by able-bodied people that my life, along with those of other disabled people, is a tragic struggle, and the thing I must desire above all else is to be "cured" of my palsy and become "normal", presumably fully equipped with a "half-decent brain" like Mr Hoddle.

Maybe that's the problem. Maybe Glenn should have left the intellectual stuff to those of us with more than half-decent brains and concentrated on teaching people how to kick a ball into a net. You can forgive a man for being a fool if England are beating the world at football.

Yours faithfully,
GLYNN VERNON
(Member, Executive Council, Scope),
1 Innholder Court, Neath Hill,
Milton Keynes MK14 6JN.
glynn.vernon@virgin.net.
February 2.

From Mrs Sue Davidson

Sir, As a parent of a severely autistic daughter, I have come into contact with many other severely mentally handicapped children and their parents. Parents often feel an initial sense of guilt about their handicapped or disabled child: as I did, they often believe that their child's disability is a punishment. Glenn Hoddle's claims do nothing to help matters.

I've always believed these children to be closer to God than I'll ever be, and that they were born into this world to teach others a lesson: my daughter has certainly taught me the lesson of unconditional love, and the irrelevance of material things.

Despite the problems which I've encountered in raising her, I believe in God and an afterlife. As her 18th birthday draws nearer, I often ponder on what could have been. However, it gives me the strength to carry on to know that one day, although not in this life, she will be made "whole".

Yours sincerely,
S. DAVIDSON,
3 Gyfre Gardens,
Abergwili, Carmarthen,
Carmarthenshire SA31 2JD.
January 30.

From the Reverend Ronald Alpiar

Sir, Your editorials (February 1 and 2) urge that Glenn Hoddle should resign, having given gross offence to the disabled.

Coming from *The Times*, that's a bit rich! Had *The Times* not reported Hoddle's remarks, only the relatively few disabled persons privy to his views would have been offended. By publishing those views, *The Times* has itself multiplied many thousand-fold the number of those so offended.

Yours etc,
RONALD ALPIAR,
84 Dudsbury Road,
Ferndown, Dorset BH22 8RG.
alpiar@dial.pipex.com
February 2.

From Mr G. J. Fellows

Sir, Having worked for more than three decades with disabled people, I believe there are very few who are not big enough simply to shrug off remarks made by Glenn Hoddle as they have to do with misunderstanding (and worse) from many quarters. But what of the rest of us? What has happened to this nation of tolerance and freedom of speech?

Yours faithfully,
G. J. FELLOWS,
Dawsons Cottage, 65 Lower Radley,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3AY.
February 1.

From Mr John Dilks

Sir, The FA is not responsible for the views Glenn Hoddle has expressed; but it is largely responsible for the fact that he expressed them.

The England coach must have the abilities to create a successful squad; but equally important are the political and diplomatic skills required of someone who will be regarded as a role model by hundreds of thousands of children.

The FA should have provided Hoddle with guidance on equal opportunities issues, diplomacy and, perhaps, general presentational skills. Arguably, without such help he was almost bound to say something like this eventually.

Yours etc,
JOHN DILKS,
Hudnall Lane,
Little Gaddesden,
Hertfordshire HP4 1QE.
February 1.

From Mr Brian W. Codd

Sir, What kind of world do we live in?

The England football coach makes a silly, injudicious remark, a personal opinion with which clearly few people agree. However, perhaps sensing votes may be at stake, ministers call for his head. Meanwhile, these same ministers are part of a Government which includes a colleague who for many years apparently deceived his wife and children in a despicable manner. I don't recall these ministers calling for him to be sacked.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN W. CODD,
Hope Cottage, Hampton Court Road,
Hampton Court, Surrey KT8 9DA.
February 2.

Compensation for medical error

From Mr Nigel H. Harris, FRCS

Sir, Dr Michael Saunders, Chief Executive of the Medical Defence Union (letter, January 21), claims that "there is no evidence of a fall in clinical standards amongst the medical profession". I find it hard to accept that the very considerable increase in successful claims over the last ten years is largely the result of a change in public attitudes and awareness, as he implies.

He is presumably referring to patients who seek compensation (many of whose cases are abandoned). I would refer him to patients (plaintiffs) whose claim is successful because the standard of medical care (diagnosis, adequacy of pre-operative information given to the patient and quality of treatment) has fallen below that which they are entitled to expect and was not in accordance with accepted medical practice.

Evidence from over 3,000 orthopaedic potential negligence claims referred to me over the last 15 years convinces me that in certain respects standards have indeed fallen. I would be surprised if other disciplines did not reach the same conclusion.

Yours faithfully,
N. H. HARRIS
(Council Member,
Academy of Experts),
72 Harley Street, W1N 1AE.

From Miss Phyllis Bennett

Sir, The suggestion by Dr Saunders that a patient who has been the victim of NHS clinical negligence should be restricted to receiving ongoing care only within the NHS would infringe every patient's right to choose. It would limit the general principle of English law that an injured party is entitled (in so far as money can achieve this) to be restored to the position in which he or she would have been but for the negligent act, and it is unlikely to save the NHS significant sums.

In my experience, as a solicitor specialising in clinical negligence, the most expensive claims are usually those for services or equipment either unavailable or inadequately provided on the NHS. These may include sufficient skilled care to give both patient and family some independence, computer equipment to enable a brain-damaged patient to communicate normally, extra physiotherapy to maximise potential, and the finest available prostheses.

Each successful clinical negligence claim is the result of eminent doctors concluding that the standard of care a patient received fell below that of the ordinarily skilled clinician specialising in that area of medicine, judged by the standards of that time. Why should the compensation available vary according to whether the accused is a careless driver or a careless doctor? The resultant misery does not.

Yours faithfully,
PHYLLIS BENNETT,
Walker Martineau (solicitors),
64 Queen Street, EC4R 1HB.
January 25.

The Monty style

From Mr Michael Goldman

Sir, May I add a mystery to the reminiscences of Field Marshal Lord Montgomery (letters, January 18, 22 and 28)? In, I think, 1943, at the height of the war, the boys of Manchester Grammar School assembled to hear Montgomery address them on the subject of leadership. It was only many years later that it occurred to me how strange it was that this war leader should have taken time from his military duties to talk to a few hundred of us schoolboys. Contemporaries also remembered the occasion.

In August 1967 I wrote to the great man, who replied by return, writing in red ink on the back of my letter: "I definitely did not visit Manchester Grammar School in the 1940s."

Some years later the then High Master of the school assured me that Monty's signature did appear in its visitors' book. So was the field marshal's memory at fault, or was it a visit by his double?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GOLDMAN,
1 Lyndale Close,
Blackheath, SE3 7RG.
January 31.

Cruelty to animals

From Mr Martin Offer

Sir, On January 28 *The Times* reported the case of a circus trainer who was convicted of hitting an animal with a riding crop. The report spoke of her reputation being "in tatters".

Two days later you printed a half-page feature extolling the skills of a young man who tortures animals to death in public. The report referred to him as a "genius".

How is it that bullfighting continues to exist in a moral vacuum, exempt from the standards of humaneness, indeed humanity, which are common elsewhere?

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN OFFER,
4 Lion Road, Nyetimber,
Pagham, West Sussex PO21 3JZ.
February 1.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

The Civil War

From Professor B. S. Capp

Sir, Your leader on the Civil War and its aftermath ("Why Charles died", January 30) fairly summarises revisionist thinking but is in danger of throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

While the quarrel between King and Parliament was indeed a split within the ruling elites, it was the London crowds, not the elites, who drove Charles from his capital in 1642 and precipitated war. The armies facing the King later that year consisted largely of volunteers, and civil war was possible only because a significant proportion of citizens was politically aware and engaged.

The demise of Marxism, moreover, must not be allowed to marginalise the Levellers. Proto-democrats, not socialists, the Levellers insisted on the sovereignty of the people and a written constitution to make that revolutionary principle a reality.

Paradoxically, their deep suspicion of all central executive power, even the Westminster Parliament, makes them in part the forebears of the Conservative Right as well as the Labour Left, and their ideas on devolution have an obvious relevance and resonance today.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD CAPP,
Department of History,
University of Warwick,
Coventry CV4 7AL.
February 1.

Wrong bark

From Mr Ian Brown

Sir, Your charming photograph of the youthful Prince Charles and Camilla Shand in Windsor Great Park (January 29) is not set against the bole of a "stout oak tree", *Quercus species*, but that of a massive beech, *Fagus sylvatica*. The coarse ridged bark of the oak is, as every schoolboy knows, wholly unsuitable for the carving of lovers' initials.

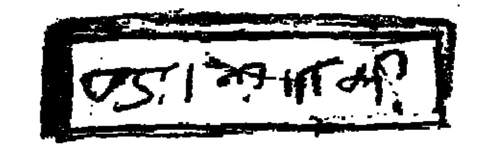
Yours etc,
IAN BROWN,
The Old Rectory,
Smethcott, Church Stretton,
Shropshire SY6 6NX.
January 30.

Tailpiece

From Mr Jack Dudley

Sir, Thank you for the delightful picture of the new Bunny Girl on the front page today, Saturday. A nice change from the army of bottomless anorexics through which we are obliged to wade in the fashion pages.

Yours,
JACK DUDLEY,
24 Edlyn Close,
Berkhamstead,
Hertfordshire HP4 3PQ.
January 30.





COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
February 2: The Duke of Edinburgh today visited Cambridgeshire and was met by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

The Duke of Edinburgh visited Burrall Limited, Wisbech, and, as Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, later visited St John's Innovation Centre and St John's College, Cambridge.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Oast House and St Faith's School, Cambridge.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 2: The Prince of Wales this morning opened the Cavendish Suite in the Haemato-Oncology Unit at Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 2: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon addressed the Closing Plenary Session of the 1999 Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum at The Conference Centre, Davos, Switzerland.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 2: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Honorary Air Commodore, Royal Air Force Coningsby, today received Group Captain Alan Lockwood on relinquishing his appointment as Station Commander, and Group Captain Peter Ruddock on assuming this appointment.

Birthdays today

Mr G.A. Allan, former Headmaster, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, 63; Sir Anthony Alment, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 77; the Earl of Antrim, 64; Miss Gillian Ayres, painter, 69; Mr Val Doonican, singer, 70; Mr Tim Flowers, footballer, 31; Mr William Frankel, former Editor and chairman, *Jewish Chronicle*, 82; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, 74; the Earl of Hardwicke, 28; Mr Gavin Henderson, Principal, Trinity College of Music, 51; Baroness O'Cathain, 61; Miss Elaine Padmore, opera singer and director, 52; Brigadier the Hon Dame Mary Pihl, former director, WRAC, 83; Mr Glen Tetley, choreographer, 73; Mr Frankie Vaughan, singer, 71; Miss Kirsty Wark, journalist and TV presenter, 44.

Meeting

Royal Institute of International Affairs
Mr Borys Tarasyuk, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs held yesterday at Chatham House. Lord Wright of Richmond, chairman, presided. Afterwards, Mr Peter Cooke, deputy chairman, presided at a meeting when Mr Chen Yuan, Governor of the State Development Bank of China, was the speaker.

Luncheons

Corporation of London
The Prime Minister of Finland delivered the City Europe Lecture at Guildhall yesterday and afterwards the Corporation of London were the hosts at a luncheon. Among those present were:

The Ambassadors of Spain, Luxembourg, Georgia, Turkey, the Republic of Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Lithuania, Belgium, Sweden, the Slovak Republic, Romania, the Russian Federation, Hungary, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Belarus, the High Commissioner for Cyprus, HM Ambassador to Finland, Viscount Craigavon, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, KT, Lord Tordoff, Lord Haskins, Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, Baroness Jay of Paddington, Lord Tope, Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, Lord Taverne, QC, Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, Baroness Sharp of Guildford, Baroness Ludford, Lord McNally, Mr Alan Beith, MP, Sir Timothy Garden, Sir Peter Petrie, Sir Brian Goswell, Sir Michael Jenkins, Sir Malcolm Bates, Members of Parliament, Members of the Policy and Resources Committee and Officers of the Corporation of London.

First Day Cover Club
The Hon Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, MP, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the First Day Cover Club held yesterday at the Reform Club to mark the publication of the special Millennium set of Post Office stamps on the Travellers' Tale. Mr Keith McDowall presided. Among those present were:

Lord Clarke of Hampstead, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, Lord Evans of Watford, Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, Mr John Appleton, Professor John Ashworth, Mr Charles Clarke, MP, Mr Robin Corbett, MP, Mr Philip Dewhurst, Mr Bill Olner, MP, Mr Richard Page and Mr Alan Williams.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prize-winners were announced yesterday:

£100,000: 47SN 511262, winner has a holding of £15,000 and comes from Hillingdon; 68LT 915067, £19,998, Essex; 79LF 678775, £19,995, Leicestershire; 49SN 480715, £20,000, West Midlands; 22FF 696226, £12,620, Lancashire; 87AZ 937652, £1,000, Harrow; 11QL 291914, £20,000, Herefordshire; 88HP 268058, £17,801, Surrey.

£50,000: 80RP 023200, £500, Somerset; 8KF 129972, £35, Warwickshire; 70HZ 506885, £14,205, Kensington and Chelsea; 80NS 083899, £17,281, East Riding of Yorkshire; 68JF 266930, £20,000, Southwark; 33VB 534027, £100, West Lothian; 36CN 628362, £19,994, Oxfordshire; 70FK 456283, £10,000, Somerset; 16BN 765770, £5,000, West Sussex; 67EW 017932, £2,000, Devon; 82JL 403845, £20,000, Buckinghamshire; 43KB 568270, £9,175, Hertfordshire; 59NF 266201, £10,000, Cheshire; 6ITL 072353, £19,800, Hertfordshire; 54GK 307606, £12,650, Oxfordshire.

£25,000: 74BK 436290, £19,401, Lincolnshire; 92CF 575174, £4,969, Staffordshire; 91BK 733102, £20,000, Essex; 33LN 104668, £20,000, Essex; 51RK 138017, £19,413, Somerset; 87ZN 352079, £10,000, Lancashire; 93EW 237080, £7,207, Nottinghamshire; 14RP 902983, £1,997, Surrey; 6DL 748245, £13, Norfolk; 38KZ 029559, £2,012, West Yorkshire; 14TB 605486, £20,000, Surrey; 86LW 804243, £5,230, Gloucestershire; 20RB 033180, £876, Flintshire; 27HN 266831, £10,000, Leicestershire; 54DB 143812, £11,000, Hampshire; 64JW 112879, £20,000, Tyne & Wear; 90EB 118004, £1,230, Essex; 47GF 283406, £9,360, Isle of Wight; 29YL 350306, £7,350, Merseyside; 21PW 817488, £165, Anglesey; 74TZ 457274, £5,000, East Riding of Yorkshire; 46AP 434636, £1,000, Camden; 88JW 721374, £20,000, Hertfordshire; 46VN 171173, £300, Greater Manchester; 84NF 668692, £15,500, Cumbria; 81MZ 803624, £20,000, West Midlands; 62QB 629564, £10,000, West Midlands; 28WF 949996, £9,000, Berkshire; 78ZT 983009, £20,000, Ealing; 20WN 150987, £670, Newport; 93QS 445098, £20,000, Cumbria.

Patron saint of lovers ends up causing an unholy tiff

Two cities claim martyr's remains

By Audrey Magee
Ireland Correspondent

ST VALENTINE, the patron saint of lovers, has caused a tiff between priests in Glasgow and Dublin.

Franciscan friars in Glasgow and Carmelite priests in Dublin are squabbling over the rightful ownership of the bones of the saint, one of the first Christian martyrs who was beheaded by the Romans for refusing to renounce his faith.

The Glasgow friars claim that they have had the bones of St Valentine since 1868. But Dublin insists that it received the saint's body as a gift from Pope Gregory XVI in 1836, 32 years earlier.

The dispute, only days before Valentine's Day, is causing great upset in Dublin where lovers gather at the tomb each February 14 to pledge their affection and to renew their marriage vows.

Father Frank O'Gara, the priest in charge of St Valentine's tomb in Dublin, said that his parishioners were very disturbed by the suggestion that there was more than one tomb for the saint.

But the Scottish Franciscans insist that their bones are genuine, as does Terni, a town northwest of Rome where the saint was born, which also claims to have his remains.

Father Peter Hall, of the Blessed John Duns Scotus church in the Gorbals, said that the bones were given to Scotland by Stephen Potran, a wealthy Roman Catholic from France who, as Commissary of the Holy Land, was entrusted with many important religious relics.

But Dublin cites a letter from the Vatican as its proof of ownership. The letter, written in January 1836, states that Pope Gregory XVI ordered that the body of St Valentine be removed from the Roman cemetery of St Hippolytus and sent to Dublin.

The letter, which accompanied the body, said that the remains of St Valentine were sent "in a wooden case covered with painted paper, well closed, tied with a red silk ribbon and sealed with our seals". The Pope made Dublin a gift of the remains of St Valentine, who was reputedly killed in 269, after a visit to Rome in 1835 by an Irish Carmelite priest, Father John Spratt, who impressed the Vatican with his oratory.

Father Hall suggested that all the remains were genuine as Rome often divided relics into different sections for distribution. He said that the Scottish and Irish priests should meet to resolve the ownership debate.

"It possibly means that at the end of the day we all have remains of St Valentine. We will have to sit down together to compare notes," he said.



Dublin: the shrine containing the saint's remains in the Carmelite church



Glasgow: Father Brian McGrath keeps guard over a new display of the bones of St Valentine

Dinners

The Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained at dinner last night at the Mansion House the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, leaders of major British-listed companies involved in trade and industry, heads of major city financial and business services firms, representatives of HM Government and the Civil Service, the Sheriffs, Members of the Court of Aldermen, the Court of Common Council and Officers of the Corporation of London.

The Lord Mayor and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry were the speakers. Among those present were:

Lord Walker of Worcester, Lord Paul, Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, Lord Janner of Braunstone, QC, Lord Bagri, Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, Dr Lord Gilbert, Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, Lord Bell, Mr Tim Eggar, Mr Derek Fatchett, MP, Sir Michael Knight, Sir Robert Walmsley and Sir Michael Scholar.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Mr Hemant Patel, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1. Ms Claire Rayner, Chairman of the Patients Association, also spoke. Among those present were:

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Lord Newton of Braintree, Lady Trafford, Mr David Amess, MP, Mr Alan Duncan MP, Dr Evan Harris, MP, Dr Thomas Stuttaford, Dr Keith Tonge, the President of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, the Vice-Chancellor of De Montfort University and the Chief Pharmacist, Department of Health, the Chief Pharmacist for the Scottish Home and Health Department and the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Northern Ireland.

One World Action
Mrs Cherie Booth, QC, presented the first One World Action Award to Ms Jane Winder, Director of One World Action, at a dinner held last night at Middle Temple Hall to mark the 10th anniversary of the charity. Mr Neil Kinnock, MEP, Mrs Glenys Kinnock, MEP, Mr Ben Elton, Mr Ron Todd and Mr Jon Snow also spoke.

Glaziers' Company
Canon Roy White, Vice-Provost of Southwark and Honorary Chaplain of the Glaziers' Company, gave an address and blessed the tools of the craft at the annual service held yesterday in Southwark Cathedral. Mr George D. Cracknell, Master, and Mr Peter R. Batchelor, Upper Warden, welcomed the guests at a reception and supper held afterwards at Glaziers' Hall.

Horners' Company

The following have been elected and installed officers of the Horners' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Dr Leonard P. Smith; Upper Warden, Mr Raymond R. Knowland; Renter Warden, Mr Miles St C. Baird.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.A. Ausenda and Miss R.K. Howden
The engagement is announced between Marcello, son of Mr Valerio Ausenda, of Somerset, Bermuda, and Mrs Catherine Warwick, of Paget, Bermuda, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Howden, of Mayfield, East Sussex.

Mr J.B. Brindle and Dr A.E. Butler
The engagement is announced between John Benjamin, only son of Mr Roderick Brindle and the late Mrs Katherine Brindle, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Alice Elizabeth, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Paul Butler, of Muswell Hill, London.

Mr I.T. Brogan and Miss E.M.O'D. Barlow
The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Brogan, of Poplar, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of the late I.P. Barlow and of Mrs Barlow, of Chiswick.

Mr N.J.S. Harries and Miss N.J. Wellspring
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs J.M. Harries, of Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire, and Nikki, only daughter of Mr and Mrs P-J. Wellspring, of Ludlow, Shropshire.

Mr C.D. Maguire and Miss J.C. Nicholls
The engagement is announced between Carl Daniel, second son of Mr Carl Maguire, of Delmar, California, USA, and Ms Jacquelyne Patricia, of Madison, Wisconsin, USA, and Jill Caroline, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Nicholls, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr S. Murray and Miss C.D. Sparshott
The engagement is announced between Scott, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Bruce Murray, of Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire, and Caroline Diana, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Sparshott, of Camberley, Surrey.

Mr M. Plail and Miss E.S. Newman
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Plail, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, and Elaine Sarah, younger daughter of Mr Barry Newman and Mrs Barbara Brooks, of Enfield, Middlesex.

Mr T.W. Shaw and Miss L.M.A. Briggs
The engagement is announced between Thomas, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Martin Shaw, of East Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Briggs, of Boxgrove, Chichester, West Sussex.

Mr D.W.M. Thompson and Miss P.J. Matyisin
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of the Rev William and Mrs Thompson, of Oxnam Manse, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, and Petronella, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ferenc Matyisin, of Kazincbarcika, Hungary.

Mr E.C. Zamboni and Miss E.M. Flatman
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr Richard Zamboni, of Leatherhead, Surrey, and of the late Mrs Pamela Zamboni, and Emma, second daughter of the late Mr Keith Flatman and of Mrs Margaret Flatman, of Norwich, Norfolk.

Marriage

Mr A.B.G. Moody and Miss K.H. Gidofalvy
A service of blessing was held quietly in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, on Saturday, January 30, after the marriage at Richmond Register Office, of Alexander Brian Grindal Moody, second son of Mr and Mrs Peter Moody, of Tredustan, Brecon, to Katalin Hermione Gidofalvy, youngest daughter of the late Dr and Mrs Elemer Gidofalvy, of Buda, Hungary. The Rev Roger Marsh officiated.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Felix Mendelssohn, composer, Hamburg, 1809; Elizabeth Blackwell, physician and co-founder of the London School of Medicine for Women, Bristol, 1821; Robert Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, Prime Minister 1885-86, 1886-92 and 1895-1902, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, 1830; Hugh Montague Trenchard, 1st Viscount Trenchard, Marshal of the RAF, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police 1931-35, Taunton, 1873; Gertrude Stein, novelist and critic, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 1874.

DEATHS: Germain Pilon, sculptor, Paris, 1590; Richard (Beau) Nash, master of ceremonies at Bath, Bath, 1761; George Crabbe, poet, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1832; Sir Henry Maine, jurist and historian, Cannes, 1888; Sir Morell Mackenzie, physician, London, 1892; Edward Pickering, astronomer, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1919; Woodrow Wilson, 28th American President 1913-21, Nobel Peace laureate 1920, Washington, 1924; Oliver Heaviside, physicist, Torquay, 1925; Buddy Holly, singer and songwriter, died in an air crash, near Mason City, Iowa, 1959; Boris Karloff, actor, Midhurst, West Sussex, 1969.

President Woodrow Wilson presided at the first meeting of the League of Nations in Paris, 1919.

The Queen visited Australia, the first reigning monarch to do so, 1954.

Harold Macmillan made his historic "The wind of change is blowing through this continent" speech to the South African Parliament, Cape Town, 1960.

Yassir Arafat was appointed leader of the PLO, 1969.

The Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great

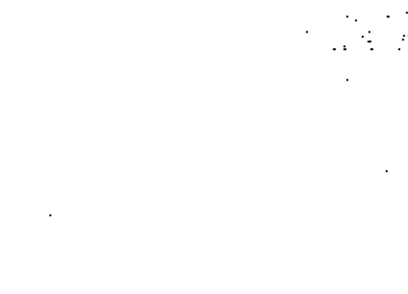
The Bishop of London, assisted by the Rev Dr Martin Dudley, Rector, yesterday dedicated the new altarpiece of the Virgin Mary and the Christ-child in the Lady Chapel of the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield. Mr Simon Callow read the lessons and the Spanish Ambassador read the Gospel. The choir, directed by Mr David Trendell, sang Spanish music.

Señora Doña Maria de Aza and the Argentine Ambassador and Señora de Pfirter were among those present at a reception held afterwards in the cloister.

New Recorders

The following have been appointed recorders on the Midland and Oxford Circuit:

John Montague Appleby (solicitor), Christopher Michael Butler, Michael John Dudley, Robert Mark Eades, Robert Peter Glancy, QC, Anthony James Goldstaub, QC, James Dalgleish Guthrie, QC, Andrew Ninian Roberts Hamilton, Melbourne Donald Inman, QC, Richard Calder Jose, Mrs Frances Margaret Kirkham (solicitor), Andrew Ewart McFarlane, QC, Malcolm George McEwan Morse, Christopher Michael Murray (solicitor), Philip Laurence Parker, Frederick Michael Pearce, Rhodri Price Lewis, John Yeoman Randall, QC, Timothy John Whittaker Scott, QC, Brian Ben Warner.



PERSONAL COLUMN

These are Solomon's proverbs: Wise children make their fathers proud of them; foolish ones bring their mothers grief. Proverbs 10.1 (GNB).

BIRTHS

ATKINSON - On 28th January 1999, to Susie (née White) and Justin, a beautiful son, William Jack, a brother for Rosie and Lara.

AWAD - On January 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Diala and Charles, a healthy son, Alex, weighing 3.6 kgs.

BROADHURST - On January 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Nicky and Andrew, a son, Samuel, a brother for James.

BROWN - On January 24th, to Catherine (née Lloyd Morgan) and Benedict, a son, Ivo Benedict Hugh.

COZENS - On January 30th 1999 to Jane (née Smith) and Charles, a son, George Euan Douglas.

DOLAN - On January 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Lynn and Thomas, a son, Patrick James, a brother for Tommy.

FRANKEL - On 29th January London to Richard and Sarah, a son, George Mervyn, a brother for Louis.

GODFREY - To Yvette and Laurence, a boy, Dylan.

JONES - On 1st February to Clare and Matthew, a son, Samuel Glyndwr.

LANE - On January 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Carol (née Johnston) and James, a handsome son, Connor James, a brother for Alexandra.

McINTOSH - On January 10th, to Annie (née Devoy) and Iain, a son, Finn Milo Devoy, a brother for Tatiana and Kitt.

O'DONNELL - On January 18th to Jacquie (neé Duckworth) and Ian, a son, Jack, a brother for Tia.

PEMBERTON - On Friday 22nd January to Amanda and Nick, a beautiful daughter, Amy Louise.

ROBB - On January 26th, at The Portland Hospital to Gillian (née Sellar) and Reid, a daughter, Lucy Helen Elizabeth.

SPRAGG - On January 31st at The Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, to Lori (née Rolfe) and David, a daughter, Charlotte Victoria, a sister for Jamie-Lee.

TAXIS BORDOGNA VAL NIGRA - On January 28th to Miranda (née Dunne), The Baron and Baroness William, a second daughter, Annabelle Mary.

DEATHS

ANDREWES - Molly (née Jungius) on 31st January after a long and brave battle with multiple sclerosis. Funeral at 3 pm at Penmount Crematorium, near Truro on 5th March.

BARR - Robert, journalist, BBC war correspondent and scriptwriter, died 30th January 1999 aged 89. Beloved husband of the late Janet Connell and father of Jane. Service at Kilchattan Bay Church, Isle of Bute on Monday 8th February at 12 noon.

BATEMAN - Anthony Horace John (Tony) F.R.I.C.S. On 31st January 1999, the day before his 77th birthday. Funeral, Worth Crematorium Tuesday 9th February 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for The Stroke Association c/o Freeman Brothers, 9 North Parade, Horsham.

BATHURST - On 31st January, peacefully in hospital, Joan Caroline (née Petrie), much loved wife of Maurice. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead on Friday 5th February at 12.30pm. Family flowers only.

BOYARS - Marion, publisher, beloved wife of Arthur, mother of Susan and Catheryn and Grandmother of Daniel, Emma, Ella and Tessa, peacefully at home on 1st February. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium on Thursday 4th February at 4.30pm. No flowers but contributions to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

BURRIDGE - Evelyn Isabelle, passed peacefully away at home on 25th January 1999, aged 84 years. The funeral service will take place at Bishops Hull Parish Church on Thursday 4th February at 2.30pm, followed by cremation at Taunton Deane Crematorium. No flowers by request, donations if desired for the Marie Curie Foundation may be sent to E. White & Son Ltd, Funeral Directors, 138/139 East Reach, Taunton TA1 3HN.

CARDIFF - On Monday 1st February Margaret Evelyn ("Peggy"), widow of Brig. Ereld Cardiff CB, CBE, (late Scots Guards). Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at 3 pm at St Mary's Church, Little Hereford on Monday 8th February. Family flowers only. No letters. Donations to St Michael's Hospice, Bartestree, Hereford, HR1 4HA.

DINAN - John Joseph died on January 31st 1999 aged 62 years, dearly beloved brother of Kay, Denise and Pat and a much loved uncle and great-uncle. Requiem Mass at St Joseph's, St Michaels Road, Basingstoke at 11am Wednesday 10th February. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Michael's Hospice c/o Basingstoke & District Funeral Service, 8 Cross Street, RG21 7DQ.

FAWCETT - On February 1st 1999, in hospital, Esmé, aged 83 years. Beloved wife for 59 years of Robert and loved and loving mother and grandmother. Cremation family only. Service of Thanksgiving at Appledore Parish Church, near Ashford, Kent on Wednesday 10th February at 2pm. No flowers please but donations if desired to ChildLine c/o R.M. & D.C. Bates, Scotland & Bates, Heath Road, Appledore, Ashford, Kent TN26 2AJ.

HARVEY - Nancy Rhona died peacefully at home on January 31st aged 82. A dearly loved mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Shipton, near Andoversford, Glos. on Monday February 8th at 1.30 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers for St Mary's Church may be left at the church or sent to Norman Trotman & Hughes Funeral Directors, Northleach, Glos., tel: (01451) 860288.

HORNE - Bessie (née Liversedge), peacefully at home on Saturday 30th January 1999, aged 83 years. Beloved wife of the late Kenneth Horne. Funeral Service at Boughton Church, Northampton, Thursday 11th February, 2.00pm. Enquiries to Ann Bonham and Son, Funeral Directors, 01604 634368.

JONES - Pamela (previously Teare, née Ward), aged 73, of Newdigate, passed away on January 28th. Arrangements, FW Paine F/D, tel 0181 399 3060.

KELLY - Lt. Col. (ret'd) James Joseph, OBE, peacefully in Wexford, Ireland, on 30th January 1999, aged 79 years. Much loved husband of Theresa, devoted father of Maria, Michael, Elizabeth and Philip, father-in-law of Amanda, Richard and Loraine, and loving grandpa of 12 wonderful grandchildren. Late of the Irish Guards, Quartermaster and Captain of Invalids at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Requiem Mass at New Ross Parish Church, followed by burial at Terrerath, Co. Wexford. Flowers or donations for elderly care c/o T. Kelly Solicitor, New Ross.

LALONDE - Frances Isabella passed peacefully away at Highcroft, Weston-super-Mare on 1st February aged 94. Dearly loved mother of Richard and Mary and their families. Funeral at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Weston-super-Mare on Tuesday 9th February at 10.45 am. No flowers please. If desired donations to the Rector, The Parish Church Fund, c/o The Elms, 50 Baker Street, Weston-super-Mare.

LECH - Suddenly on January 30th 1999 at Newton, Northamptonshire, Frank aged 45 years, husband of Jan, father of Charlie and Henry. Funeral Service will be held at Geddington Church on Monday 8th February at 2.30 pm followed by private interment at Newton. No flowers by request - donations to the Diabetic Unit, Kettering General Hospital c/o Jack Warwick Independent Family Funeral Director, Wallis Road, Kettering 01536 485635.

LUKE - Eric Mathieson Mitchell, Glaswegian, public relations consultant, former chairman of the British Association of Industrial Editors and Scout leader, on 29th January in Darwin, Northern Australia. Death at 67 followed a long illness borne and battled with characteristic courage. Loved husband of Beverley and father of Neil, Nicola and Andrew, mourned and remembered by a worldwide host of friends.

MACKAY - Suddenly and peacefully on 1st February 1999, at Enterkine House, Ayrshire, The Hon Alan J.P. Mackay. Very much loved husband of Lucie and loved father of Siobhan and Kristine. Funeral service at Glenapp Church on Friday 5th February 1999 at 3.00pm. Family flowers only please.

MAYHEW - John peacefully in Canada January 31st. Brother of Julian and of Felicity Harlow. (01449) 673427.

PEARCE - On 30th January 1999 at her home Doris Louie aged 94 years. Funeral Service at St Mark's Church, Peaslake on Friday February 5th at 3 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired for St James' Church Spire Appeal may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking RH4 2ES.

PONSONBY - Myles Walter CBE. Dearly loved husband of Anne, devoted father of Belinda, John and Emma and most beloved father-in-law and grandfather. Very peacefully at home in Winchester on Monday 1st February 1999. Requiem and Thanksgiving Mass at St Peter's Catholic Church, Winchester at 12.15 pm on Friday 5th February 1999. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research, 47 Hillside Road, Teg Down, Winchester, Hampshire. Enquiries to Jno. Steel & Son (01962) 844044.

ROGERS - Dr David John de Sola, aged 52, tragically in a road accident on February 1st. Son of Dr Keith and the late Marjorie Rogers and stepson of Yvonne, brother of Barbara Rossiter and Carol Rogers. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane on Friday 5th February at 12.30pm. No flowers by request.

ROMANS - Laura, peacefully in hospital on February 1st aged 91. Devoted wife of the late Rev. P.C. Romans, loving mother of Catherine and John and grandmother of her five grandchildren. Funeral at All Saints, Sinnington, N. Yorks on February 5th at noon. Flowers to R.H. Barnes (F.D.) tel: (01751) 477877.

SCOTT - On 1st February 1999, Peggy Winifred Ishbel (Biddy) née Bowen Colthurst, in her 90th year after a full and happy life. Beloved wife of the late Major General T.P.D. Scott, much loved mother of Fiona, Brigid and Caroline, grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at the Church of St Mary and St Melor, Amesbury at 3 pm on Wednesday 10th February. There will also be a service at St Michael's Church, Trory, Co Fermanagh at 12 noon on Friday 19th February. No flowers please but donations, if wished, to the British Field Sports Society.

SCRIVENOR - Mary Elizabeth (née Neatby), widow of Sir Thomas Vaisey Scrivenor Kt CMG died peacefully aged 93 on Saturday 30th January 1999. Beloved mother of Phoebe, Patrick, Ann and Gillian, much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service Monday 8th February at 12 noon St Kenelm's Church, Minster Lovell, Oxfordshire. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to MENCAP.

SIMMONDS - Henry Clifton on 30th January aged 88, dearly loved husband of Diane and father of Annette and William. Funeral Service at Breakspear Crematorium on Monday 8th February at 11.15 am West Chapel. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

STEWART - John William D.F.C. peacefully at home, Inglewood Comrie, surrounded by his family on February 2nd 1999, the Feast of Candlemas. Dearly beloved husband of Gilda, father of Helen and Robin, stepfather of David, and cherished grandfather. Episcopalian Funeral Service at Comrie and Strowan Parish Church on Saturday February 6th at 2.30 pm. Burial thereafter at Comrie Cemetery. All are respectfully invited.

TIDY - Lisa (née Hine), on 1st February, peacefully but suddenly after a period of poor health. For 23 years the loving wife of Tom. She will be greatly missed. Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church, Castelnau, Barnes at 11.30am, Saturday 6th February.

TOPHAM - Derek Cyrus, peacefully on Friday January 29th 1999, aged 88. For 62 years, the devoted husband of Phyllis. Much loved father of Richard and Gillian, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at 11.30am on Monday 8th February at Mortlake Crematorium, Townmead Road, Richmond. Family flowers only.

WHEELER - Anthony Oliver, much loved father of Deborah, Victoria, Mark and Jonathan, died peacefully at Wycombe General Hospital in the early hours of January 29th. Deeply missed by his family and friends. Funeral at St James Church, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross, on Tuesday 9th February at 2.30 pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

COVEN - In cherished memory of Raie, very loved Mamma, on her birthday. Frank and Edwina.

HOLMES - Marie died 3rd February 1994. In loving memory of my darling wife. Geo.

NAIPAUL - Patricia Ann. Born 31st July 1932, Gloucester. Died 3rd February 1996, Salterton.

WANTED

TICKETS FOR SALE

OBITUARIES

PAUL MELLON

Paul Mellon, American philanthropist, connoisseur and bibliophile, died yesterday aged 91. He was born on June 11, 1907.

Paul Mellon became a byword for philanthropy. In 60 years he gave away more than $600 million to benefit higher education, the arts, conservation and preservation, psychiatry, religion and science.

His lifelong love of English literature and English paintings, especially sporting ones, began while he was at Cambridge. He would buy in small galleries and bookshops in consultation only with his heart. In his lifetime he bought almost 2,000 British paintings, as well as some 5,000 prints and 20,000 rare British books, many of them illustrated. Most of the paintings were bought at a time whey they were unfashionable. Dealers wondered why he was not buying French or Dutch (which he did later), but it was Englishness, especially in rural scenes, that appealed to him.

It surprised none of Mellon's friends when he decided to make his biggest benefaction of all — more than he devoted to building the East Wing of the National Gallery in Washington — to founding the Yale Centre for British Art at his old university, Yale, in 1977. It cost him $165 million.

Mellon also poured millions of dollars into British institutions for which he had an affection. His beneficiaries included Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the Royal Veterinary College, the Tate Gallery and the Fitzwilliam Museum. He was also the moving force behind the Paul Mellon Foundation for British Art in Bloomsbury (now run from Yale), and he made all his benefactions with a blend of quiet good humour, self-effacement and stylish enjoyment.

Paul Mellon was born in Pittsburgh, the son of Andrew Mellon, whose own father had emigrated from Northern Ireland to the United States and went on to found the Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh. Andrew Mellon, a banker of near genius, went on to make a vast fortune. He had a gift for spotting struggling companies in key industries which could be made profitable with new money and better management — both of which he supplied. He was involved in all the classic American industries, steel, oil and railroads, and by 1923 only two men in America were paying more income tax: John D. Rockefeller and Henry Ford.

Andrew Mellon was still a bachelor at 47, living with his elderly parents in Pittsburgh. Then, travelling to England on an ocean liner, he met and fell in love with a vivacious 18-year-old, Nora McMullen. She was returning from a world voyage with her family, who were brewers from Hertford. Mellon proposed marriage and was turned down twice. But a year later he prevailed, and although the marriage was a disaster, ending in a public and acrimonious divorce, there were two children: Ailsa, who was to marry David Bruce, the future Ambassador to Britain, and Paul. The children were shared, spending six months of the year with each parent, and Mellon's childhood memories were sharply divided between winters spent in grand but gloomy houses in Pittsburgh, and summers — doubtless lengthened and brightened by nostalgia — in the English countryside.

He went to school at Choate, Connecticut, and then to Yale, where he came under the spell of the university's great school of 18th-century English literature scholars. Then, rather to his father's chagrin, he went to Clare College, Cambridge. Friends there introduced him to fox-hunting and to racing at Newmarket, which he always considered the most beautiful racecourse in the world. Not long afterwards, in 1935, he bought a painting of a racehorse called Pumpkin by George Stubbs. Less was then known about the artist than about the pedigree of the 18th-century stallion.



Paul Mellon leading in his 1971 Derby winner Mill Reef, mounted by Geoff Lewis

After Cambridge, Mellon went to work at the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh. He hated it, but it took him three years to find the courage to tell his father. It was not easy to tell the cold and austere Andrew Mellon that he wasn't interested in banking, business or making money, but wanted to spend the family fortune on collecting pictures and books and making them available to the public in galleries. Mellon was painfully aware of his father's disappointment — though his artistic investments may well have been as profitable over time as his father's business.

He also wanted to breed and train racehorses. This passion came from his mother, who grew up in England, learnt to ride well and wished her son to have the same pleasures. When he was a young man she let it be known that she wanted to buy him the best hunter in the world. The horse, Dublin, was an instant success, and Mellon liked it so much that he decided to be painted in the saddle. He liked to tell the story of going to the irascible Alfred Munnings, later President of the Royal Academy, who was the best painter of horses in his day. Munnings forwarded a photograph of the finished painting to Mellon in America. Mellon wrote asking if he could tone down a willow tree in the background. Munnings responded: "First of all it is not a willow, it is a pollarded oak. Secondly, I have no intention of making any changes."

In 1936 his first racehorse, bought while Mellon was up at Cambridge, was joint favourite for the Grand National with the legendary Golden Miller, the previous year's winner. Unfortunately Mellon's horse, Drinmore Lad, injured a leg and could not run. In 1954 he had his first win on the flat, with Lonely Hills, and in the years that followed his colours of "black, gold cross and stripe on cap" became a regular sight in winners' enclosures around the country. In 1968 the Jockey Club made him an honorary member.

Many of Mellon's horses, such as Sunninghill Park and Morris Dancer, though never high flyers, became great and profitable favourites with the crowds. But his reputation as an owner was forged primarily with Mill Reef, one of the truly great colts of the century, bred by Mellon in the US and brought over to England in 1969. A compact little dark bay, with an enormous zest for racing, Mill Reef was beaten only twice. His victories, before his career was cut short by a shattered fetlock, included the Derby, the Eclipse, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

At his home in Washington, Mellon displayed a striking collection of racing trophies: the Washington International, the Belmont, the US Grand National, the United National Cup and the Jockey Club Gold Cup. But the trophy he pointed out to visitors was always a fountain pen bent in two. In 1975 he was kicked in the ribs by a horse at Bath races. Two things, he said, saved his life, the pen in an inside pocket and "a good strong drink". Besides the Washington house, Mellon had five other homes: two in Massachusetts and one each in New York, Virginia and Antigua. All of these were hung with magnificent pictures by Constable, Gainsborough, Zoffany, Degas, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Millais and, most especially, Stubbs.

For 47 years Mellon was either president or chairman of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, which is based on the collections of his father. He had offices in both the East and the West wings, and when he decided to retire in 1985, the gallery mounted an exhibition in his honour drawn from the Queen's collections.

His first wife, Mary, died in 1946, and two years later Mellon married Rachel "Bunny" Lloyd, the distinguished landscape gardener who had created the most famous of American gardens, the Rose Garden at the White House, at the invitation of President Kennedy. She also designed the setting for the President's grave at Arlington cemetery.

In his later years, one of Mellon's great pleasures was the company of a few trusted friends, among whom was John Baskett, who helped to write his autobiography, *Reflections in a Silver Spoon* (1992).

Mellon was widely honoured by academic and sporting institutions, including Oxford, Cambridge, the Jockey Club and the Royal Veterinary College. As one of the great book collectors of the world, he was a member of both the Grolier Society and the Roxburghe Club.

He is survived by his second wife, and by the son and daughter of his first marriage.

DON ROBERTSON

Don Robertson, AFC, wartime Fleet Air Arm and test pilot, died on January 5 aged 90. He was born on April 15, 1908.

AFTER a long and varied career in aviation which included flying mail in Canada's Northwest Territories in the 1930s, wartime service as a Fleet Air Arm fighter pilot and flight testing for Vickers, Don Robertson turned to operating commercial hovercraft in the 1960s. With a group of five business friends he founded the world's first commercial hovercraft service, Hovertravel, whose high-speed craft ply between Ryde, Isle of Wight, and Southsea to this day.

Not content with this, he later, with a friend E. W. Gifford, founded Griffon Hovercraft whose products are exported worldwide. The company's cricket pitch-drying machine caused a sensation when it was introduced at Lord's last summer.

Educated at Rugby, which he hated, Robertson shook off its emphasis on the classics to become an engineer apprentice at Armstrong Siddeley, shortly afterwards learning to fly at Brooklands flying school.

In the early 1930s he went to Canada where, after working for a series of engineering firms that went bust in the grim economic climate, he delivered airmail in primitive aircraft over the inhospitable Arctic wastes of the Northwest Territories. Frostbite, fuel shortages and forced landings were par for the course.



Robertson in a Spitfire in his test flying days

Later in the 1930s he returned to England to become a dealer on the London Stock Exchange. This, though more lucrative, he found dull after Canada. But he kept up his flying, and hours after war was declared on September 3, 1939, was beating a path to the doors of the Admiralty where he was swiftly granted a commission in the Fleet Air Arm. From 1941 he was a fighter pilot with 809 Squadron in the aircraft carrier *Victorious*, where his Canadian experience of flying over trackless wastes stood him in good stead in operations covering convoys over the vast expanses of sea to be patrolled on the Murmansk run.

From 1942 his flying skills were deployed as a test pilot for Vickers Supermarine at Boscombe Down. This was hazardous work, pushing successive marks of the Spitfire to the limits, as well as numerous other types. Test flying had other hazards, too. On one occasion his unmarked aircraft was mistaken for a German intruder over the Channel coast and pursued by RAF aircraft. To add to his discomfiture, ship and shore batteries added 4.5 inch and 40mm Bofors shells to the machinegun fire of his pursuers. He was awarded the Air Force Cross for his wartime service.

After these excitements he found his return to business life in London a trifle staid, but he was a keen sailor and competitor in offshore races. He several times won the multihull class in the Round the Island Race from Cowes and twice took second place with his co-skipper David Cooksey in the Round Britain Race. He had a passion for powerboating, too, and co-piloted the winning *Tramontana* in the 1962 Cowes-Torquay race.

Finally his engineering skills and love of aircraft and the sea found a happy outlet in designing and building hovercraft. This was a mode of high-speed transport that had fired his imagination after the pioneering demonstrations by Sir Christopher Cockerell in 1959. After a few mishaps in trials at Bembridge (including Robertson's slicing the tops off four fingers) he and five colleagues were ready to go into business. The inaugural Ryde-Southsea service was launched on July 24, 1965, cutting down the Isle of Wight-Portsmouth crossing from 35-40 minutes to 8-9 minutes.

Robertson retired as chairman of the company in 1972.

His wife Ella died in 1984. He leaves their daughter Jane.

ROBIN NEDWELL

Robin Nedwell, comedy actor, died of a heart attack after falling from a roof, on February 2 aged 52. He was born on September 27, 1946.

AT THE end of 140 half-hour episodes of *Doctor in the House* and its sequels, Robin Nedwell said he was relieved when the series came to an end in 1976, but, being an actor mainly for the money, he was not sure what to do next. "I am a very anti-actor actor," he said. He thought the West End was ripping off its customers. "Grab the tourists, grab the punters from up North. Nuts to the intelligent audience." But he didn't like the intellectual pretensions of the subsidised theatre either. "The last three things I have seen at the National Theatre have bored me stupid."

As a result, although he continued to appear on television, notably as the smooth-talker in *The Upchat Connection*, and on stage, he never did better than with his first professional role, the cheeky, accident-prone Dr Duncan Waring.

Television's *Doctor in the House* was a distant and rather poor relation of Richard Gordon's *Doctor* books of twenty years before, and followed on from the film of 1954, with its remarkable cast including Dirk Bogarde, Donald Sinden and Kenneth More. On television, the conceit of the show was that the young doctors scarcely had time to see the patients for looking at the nurses. Viewers were astonished to find how uniformly young and beautiful National Health Service nurses were — rather as lifeguards turned out to be in the 1990s — and the series offered undemanding bit parts to a long parade of would-be starlets. Their parts were then appreciatively assessed in the small-format newspapers.

The series was largely written by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie, who also appeared together in *The Goodies*. Perhaps because Garden was himself medically qualified, they were careful never to show doctors as professionally incompetent or to ridicule patients. *Doctor in the House* was followed by doctors *at Large*, *in Charge*, *on the Go* and *at Sea*.

Robin Nedwell was a Welshman born in Birmingham. Although he claimed that he was an actor by accident, his dramatic debut was in *Goldilocks* in Cardiff when he was six, and he could recite the first line of that Welsh classic at the drop of a leek. Before going to the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, he briefly worked, unpaid, for the Welsh Theatre Company. Then, three days before leaving drama school, he was given the part of Dr Waring in the first *Doctor* series, making him the envy of 699 others who had auditioned.

He had only a tiny part in that run, and when it was over Nedwell — who did not like to undersell himself — dropped out to look for better things. He worked in America, and appeared as Roland in the television series *The Lover*. He had just been offered a West End part by Bernard Miles when his friend Barry Evans, who had been the star of the *Doctor* series, left it in 1972. Nedwell rejoined the show, and his Dr Duncan Waring became the Doctor in Charge. As senior houseman at the fictitious St Swithin's Hospital, he spent his time falling over himself trying to keep others in order while pursuing his bachelor ambitions.

In a light-hearted way, the mapcap glamour extended beyond the screen, and Nedwell enjoyed being greeted at the stage door by adoring young women. In 1974, during the making of *Doctor at Sea*, he gave an interview by phone to a London radio station, along with the former Miss World Eva Rueber-Staier, during which they and a crackling line managed to give the impression that they had been married at sea.

On the contrary, he enjoyed being single, living in a flat in Kensington which had previously belonged to the actors William Franklyn and Ian McShane, and being seen in the company of a succession of actresses. After being placed among Britain's half-dozen most eligible bachelors he repeatedly said he was determined to stay that way until he was "at least 35". He just made it before marrying Heather Inglis in 1982.

Rather a dashing figure, Nedwell did not want to be limited to comic acting, and had a sideline in the choreographing of fights for stage and film, including Roman Polanski's *Macbeth*. Offstage, he relaxed by shooting and practising kendo — Japanese sword-fighting — and he four times played the idiosyncratic and duel-prone Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*.

But his career depended on *Doctor*, and it depended on him. In 1971 it became the first London Weekend comedy to break into the mighty American market, when 52 programmes were sold for £200,000. Subsequently it was seen in the rest of the English-speaking world, and became the second longest running sitcom.

In the circumstances, Nedwell felt that he was insufficiently rewarded. He complained about his syndication fees and high taxes, and turned himself into a limited company. He also leapt at the chance to take a stage version of *Doctor in the House* on tour in Australia, where it was a great success. In 1991 the *Doctor* formula was revived for a six-part series by the BBC.

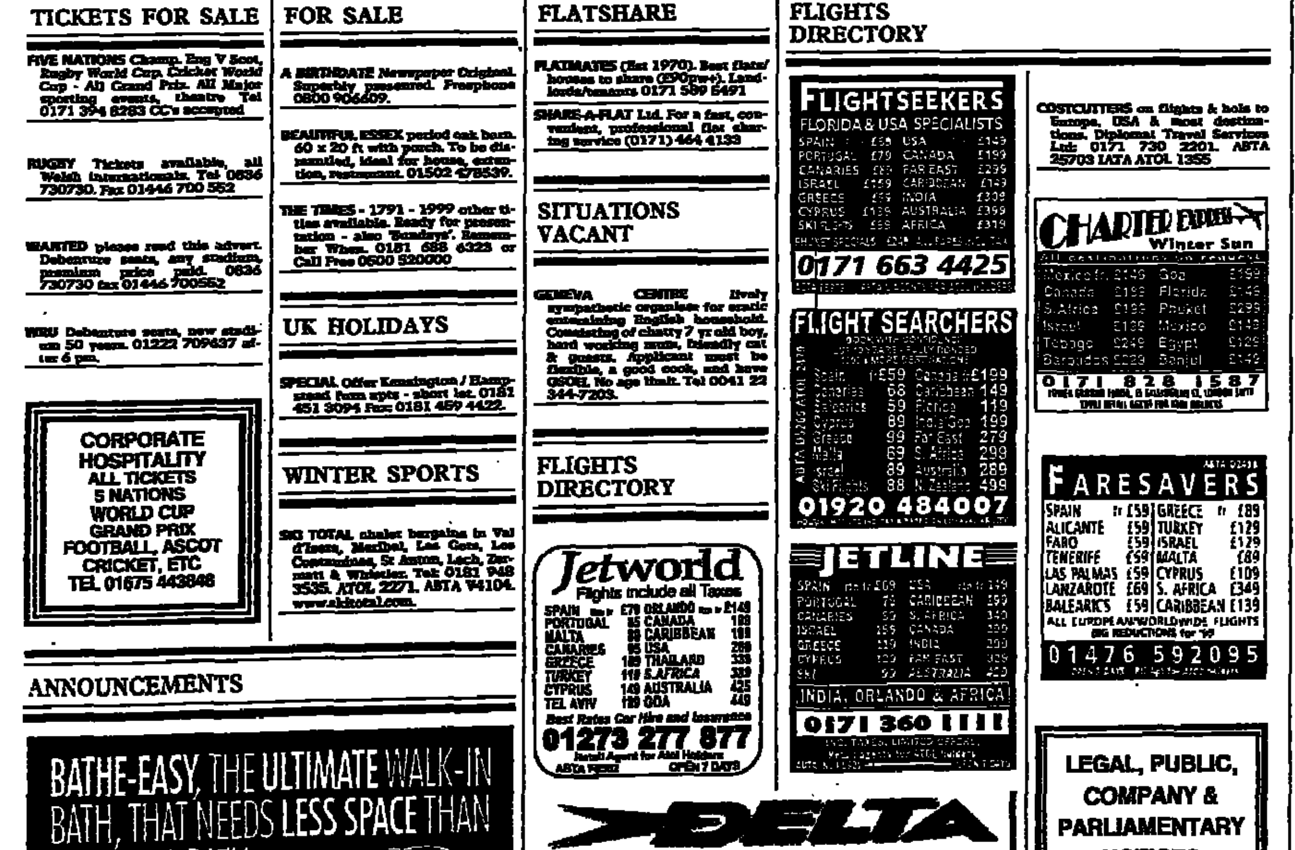
His films included *Stand Up Virgin Soldiers*, based on Leslie Thomas's romp about British servicemen becoming men of the world in Singapore. "A mucky job," said Nedwell, "fighting terrorists in the jungles of Hertfordshire." He also played in *The Taming of the Shrew* with the RSC, and in 1989 he starred in a stage version of *Brigadoon* in London. He was last seen in a tour of *The Sound of Music*.

He is survived by his wife, from whom he was separated, and by their daughter.



Nedwell with rival medic Barry Evans in *Doctor in the House*, 1970

PERSONAL COLUMN



ON THIS DAY

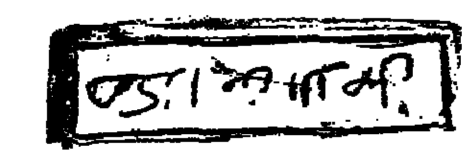
February 3, 1915

Behind the many and varied activities of Oxford University in wartime lurked a growing concern over its financial future.

OXFORD IN KHAKI

OF university sports or amusements there are practically none. The Boat Race has been cancelled. This is the term for the Torpids. But there are no rowing men. It is clear there will be no University Sports at the end of term, and practically certain that there will be no cricket match in July. Such football as goes on is the occasional recreation of the young soldier. A certain amount of field sports, also natural and useful to the soldier at home or abroad, still proceeds. Fox hunting is kept going on the countryside, and an occasional undergraduate officer on leave may join in it. The "Drag Hunt" still meets, and beagling is kept up by a combination of colleges and by constant capping. Some of the New College and Magdalen beagles have gone with their masters to the front. The ordinary undergraduate life has become still more attenuated. It is true that there are still about a thousand undergraduates in residence, but some 200, and those the more able bodied, have gone since last term. And no new ones arrive, for the top boys from the public schools are still being intercepted by commissions directly any are ready. The largest contingent of those that remain is naturally that of the non-collegiate students. Of the colleges, the least empty, where none is full, are Keble and St Johns's, and next to them Queen's, New College, Jesus, and Balliol. The society which is the most reduced from its normal size is Trinity, which has now only 26 undergraduates in residence, one more than St Edmund Hall, and four more than Corpus, smallest of all. The most important and vigorous classes perhaps are the Americans and the Indians, who show up more conspicuously by the absence of the average young Englishman ... It is striking, though only natural, that a large number of the "Blues" and sportsmen of recent years have already given themselves for the country. Of the scholars too, if not so many, yet many have taken commissions and disappeared ...

In addition, there are several battalions of Territorials and of the new Army in training, whose presence is an important factor in the life of the place. The officers of the 4th Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry have been billeted for many weeks in New College, those of the 8th Battalion in Magdalen. The men of both are billeted in the town, a lucky thing for the lodging house keepers, whose rooms would otherwise be standing empty. Christ Church is the abode of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars ...



THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1999

NEWS

Hoddle sacked for 'serious error'

■ Glenn Hoddle was sacked as England's football coach last night after 36 hours of frantic discussions over his suggestion that the disabled were paying for the sins of a previous life.

The Football Association told Hoddle that he had damaged himself and his employers with his remarks in an interview with *The Times*, and that his position had become untenable. Hoddle later admitted that he had made a serious error of judgment' Pages 1, 6

Life for stabbing lover's wife

■ The amateur actress Jenny Cupit was jailed for life for bludgeoning and stabbing to death her lover's wife. The 24-year-old mother of two changed her plea on the fifth day of her trial and admitted murdering Kathryn Linaker, a 33-year-old deputy headmistress Pages 1, 3

Family planning row

Family planning organisations criticised a leading gynaecologist after he suggested fitting teenage girls with a new device that will stop them having a baby for three years. John Guillebaud, medical director of the Margaret Pyke Family Planning Centre in London, said the girls could be fitted with the device when they are vaccinated Page 2

Shed industry

When Martin Perry, a former shepherd, began making trinket boxes in his garden shed four years ago, he had no idea that he would find himself as the creator of the world's fastest-growing line of collectables. Today he employs 400 people and has an annual turnover of £16.5 million Page 5

Hostages released

Two Britons held hostage in Yemen for 15 days were freed after receiving apologies and gifts from their kidnappers. Eddie and Mary Rosser, and a Dutch family abducted with them, were released into the safekeeping of the tribal sheikh who was reportedly behind their abduction Page 7

Irvine accused

Lord Irvine of Lairg was accused of further "cronyism" after it emerged that the bulk of legal work that he has commissioned as Lord Chancellor has gone to his former chambers Page 8

Nanny goes home

The nanny who shook a six-month-old baby to death was freed to return to Australia after a judge ruled that she needed help rather than punishment. Louise Sullivan, 27, will fly back to Sydney for treatment Page 9

Sword of mystery

Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of a traditional short sword which Japanese officials say they gave to Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee Page 10

Peace agreement

The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) indicated that it would attend the peace conference planned to start in Rambouillet on Saturday, putting pressure on Belgrade to follow suit Page 11

Clinton case

After failing to uncover any new bombshells during their interrogation of Monica Lewinsky prosecutors in the impeachment trial of President Clinton turned their attention to his confidant Vernon Jordan Page 12

Medical plans

Old Hong Kong was built on manufacturing, which has largely disappeared. Now, in an attempt to fill the vacuum, there are ambitions to develop the territory into an international centre for Chinese medicine Page 13

Love flies out through the window

■ A henpecked bird is on the loose after crashing through a window to escape the advances of his partner. Peter, an eight-year-old South American green-winged macaw, had endured months of unwanted attention from Prudence at their owners' pet shop in Frome, Somerset. On Monday, Prudence inched along the perch once too often Page 9



SIMON BURT

The promise of an early spring was emphasised as daffodils were picked at Hayle, Cornwall, after one of the century's warmest Januaries

BUSINESS

Brazil shock: The Brazilian Government stunned the international markets by sacking its Central Bank governor for the second time in a month Page 21

Accountants humiliated: PricewaterhouseCoopers have followed the news that they had been fined £3.5 million for their inadequacies over years of auditing the Robert Maxwell empire with a humiliating admission of failure Page 21

Chief goes: Reckitt & Colman announced that its chief executive Vernon Sankey was to step down with immediate effect Page 21

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 0.60 points to 6013.0. The pound rose 0.57 cents to $1.6461 and 0.06p against the euro at 68.98p. The index fell to 100.7 Page 24

SPORT

Rugby union: Will Carling, the former England captain, is coming out of retirement to make a surprise comeback at club level with Harlequins, his former team Page 38

Rallying: Ford, who finished third in the Monte Carlo Rally last month, have had their points stripped, leaving driver Colin McRae fuming Page 37

Cricket: Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, has announced his retirement from the international game following his side's Ashes series victory Page 37

Football: Juninho, the Brazil international, has turned down a move to either Middlesbrough, his former club, or Aston Villa and is staying in Spain Page 36

Recall that jazz: The work of Bob Fosse, the late director and choreographer of shows such as *Cabaret* and *Damn Yankees*, is a hit all over again on Broadway Page 28

Highbrow lowdown: "Live broadcasts are so much more interesting than playing CDs," Roger Wright, the new Controller of Radio 3, tells Richard Morrison Page 29

United notions: The Italian conductor Riccardo Chailly has built a stunning partnership with Amsterdam's Concertgebouw Orchestra. Now they woo London Page 30

CD offer: *Times* readers can enjoy the world's greatest music in the company of the world's greatest writers at a special price. Today, Kazuo Ishiguro discusses Chopin's piano masterpieces Page 30

The big sleep: Now it is known that patients can be cooled so that life signs disappear for about an hour, scientists have started searching for techniques that will allow indefinite suspension Page 14

Nigel Hawkes: The quest for the origins of life in space Page 14

A husband writes: "Joanna is depressed. The due date for our baby has come and gone with no sign of nativity. Well-meaning friends keep calling to see if we have birthed, and with each call Joanna gets more fretful." Page 15

Letdown: In the second extract from her diary, Lauren Slater, the psychologist who has taken Prozac for ten yers, feels betrayed when the pills stop working Page 15

Special agents: What makes a good estate agent and who is at the top? Page 33

All at sea: Hebridean crofters look for buyers as rural recession forces them out of isolation Page 33

A team of researchers has confirmed that the source of the Aids virus, is almost certainly a subspecies of a chimpanzee. It is still being hunted and with a rapacity that will guarantee its extinction. There could be no clearer demonstration of the immediate human value of preserving biodiversity

— *The New York Times*

Paul Mellon, philanthropist; **Don Robertson**, test pilot; **Robin Nedwell**, comedy actor Page 19

Hoddle; Pinochet; medical errors; The Civil War; televising courts; Monty; cruelty to animals; bunny girls Page 17

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**

James Christopher sees Kate Winslet ship out to Morocco in *Hideous Kinky*

■ **BOOKS**

How the Chinese got it wrong in Tibet

RADIO & TV

Preview: A getaway driver explains why he became a supergrass (BBC1, 10.15pm) **Review:** How the other half lives: Joe Joseph watches *Coming Clean* Pages 38, 39

Gladstone's shade

Nato has taken a decision of great moment, of which the alliance's publics are barely aware. It is planning to send ground troops to Kosovo, effectively turning part of rump Yugoslavia into a Nato protectorate. British soldiers are likely to be the largest component of this force Page 17

The hoddle story

Glenn Hoddle had failed to separate his rights of free speech from his duties as one of the most influencial men in a game with vast influence over the life of Britain Page 17

Face the music

Classical music may value harmony but debate over its broadcasting is less than melodic Page 17

SIMON JENKINS

Who will audit the auditors? Surely it cannot be left to a profession that admits it should have fingered Robert Maxwell long before he set sail but preferred his shilling Page 16

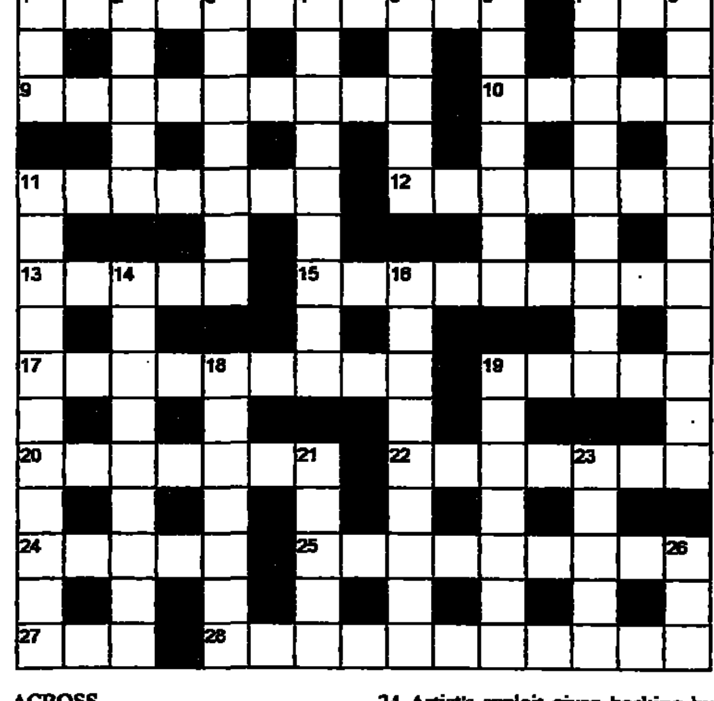
BRONWEN MADDOX

"Niggardly" will not be the last word to fall victim to the spreading realm of the taboo. It is a minor casualty of the fact that the great American experiment started from an untenable point and the country has not yet succeeded in making its black citizens feel recompensed for that injury Page 16

ALAN COREN

Friends, you cannot imagine the joy I took in clobbering that paragraph. How refreshingly different it is from the inconsequential witterings with which I normally pester your Wednesdays! Page 16

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,017



ACROSS

1 He shot to fame, taking title role in opera (7,4).
7 Unknown doctor's written about extreme discomfort (3).
9 Familiar article that'll give you a close shave (4,5).
10 To alarm the old man's less than kind (5).
11 Animal tracks crossing America from East to West (7).
12 Published a remarkable children's writer (7).
13 For a long period, it's flipping hard to manage (5).
15 Some lingo that's new-fashioned (9).
17 In the right direction? Not according to young man's advice (9).
19 Charming female father and son finally meet (5).
20 Inferior – in bad temper after getting out (2,5).
22 Way to drive in historical village in Wilts (7).
24 Artist's exploit given backing by Tate originally (5).
25 Helping on plane journey overseas (9).
27 The old and new money (3).
28 Establish spy's taken in English royal family (11).

DOWN

1 Turning up right away, was first to finish (3).
2 Pick up King's knight (5).
3 Not on the field, but on the ball? (2,5).
4 Person getting in a fix in ocean vessel (9).
5 Fellow half-heartedly climbing mountain (5).
6 Allowed old vessel to enter battle at sea (7).
7 Boat's propeller – one beyond recovery found outside lido, wrecked (9).
8 Funding for minor purposes both appropriate and necessary (6,5).
11 Unfortunately Kent lose vital and versatile opener (8,3).
14 Thing pupil previously needed before term (9).
16 Offensive louts hang about (9).
18 Surreptitiously listen in awe – trip is fantastic (7).
19 Report woman got on affair in America (7).
21 Extinct bird has since shown up over these islands (5).
23 League match (5).
26 Upset beer barrel in *The Crown* (3).

We regret that the clue to 10 across yesterday was faulty.

Solution to Puzzle No 21,016



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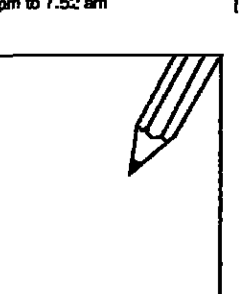
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.36 am Sun sets: 4.52 pm

Moon sets: 8.59 am Moon rises: 8.18 pm

Last quarter: February 8

London 4.52 pm to 7.34 am
Bristol 5.03 pm to 7.44 am
Edinburgh 4.49 pm to 8.03 am
Manchester 4.55 pm to 7.50 am
Penzance 5.19 pm to 7.52 am



Books for Schools token inside



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** very mild with plenty of sunshine but W and N Scotland will be dull and drizzly. There may be a little coastal drizzle in NW England, N Wales and N Ireland.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Midlands:** mild with sunny spells. Light SW wind Max 11-14C (52-57F).

☐ **E, Cent N & NE England:** mild, sunny spells. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max: 10-12C (50-54F)

☐ **Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales:** mild, sunny spells but perhaps coastal fog. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 10-13C (50-55F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, L District, IoM:** sunny spells but risk of drizzle near coasts. Moderate SW wind. Max 8-11C (46-52F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth:** dry and mild with sunny spells. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 10-13C (50-55F).

☐ **Cent Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland:** coastal fog and drizzle. Fresh to strong SW wind. Max 9-11C (48-52F).

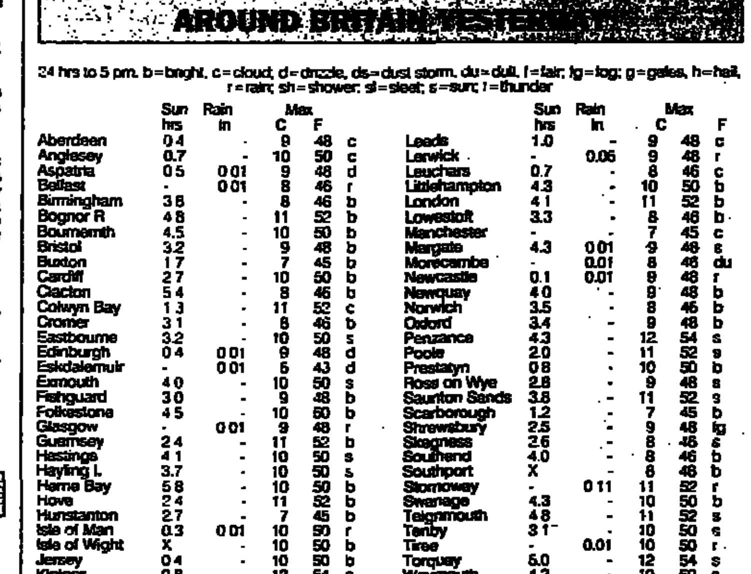
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** rain, dull. Fresh S wind becoming strong to gale SW. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **N Ireland:** risk of drizzle towards coasts, inland sunny spells. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 11-12C (52-54F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** cloudy, mainly dry. Wind SW moderate. Max 10-12C (50-54F).

☐ **Outlook:** breezy everywhere tomorrow. Showers on Friday in Scotland. Risk of showers elsewhere.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright, c=cloud; d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales, h=hail, r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	0.4	-	9	48	c	Leeds	1.0	-	9	48	c
Anglesey	0.7	-	10	50	c	Lerwick	-	0.05	9	48	r
Aspatria	0.5	0.01	9	48	d	Leuchars	0.7	-	8	46	c
Belfast	-	0.01	8	46	r	Littlehampton	4.3	-	10	50	b
Birmingham	3.8	-	8	46	b	London	4.1	-	11	52	b
Bognor R	4.8	-	11	52	b	Lowestoft	3.3	-	8	46	b
Bournemth	4.5	-	10	50	b	Manchester	-	-	7	45	c
Bristol	3.2	-	9	48	b	Margate	4.3	0.01	9	48	s
Buxton	1.7	-	7	45	b	Morecambe	-	0.01	8	46	du
Cardiff	2.7	-	10	50	b	Newcastle	0.1	0.01	9	48	r
Clacton	5.4	-	8	46	b	Newquay	4.0	-	9	48	b
Colwyn Bay	1.3	-	11	52	c	Norwich	3.5	-	8	46	b
Cromer	3.1	-	8	46	b	Oxford	3.4	-	9	48	b
Eastbourne	3.2	-	10	50	s	Penzance	4.3	-	12	54	s
Edinburgh	0.4	0.01	9	48	d	Poole	2.0	-	11	52	s
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	6	43	d	Prestatyn	0.8	-	10	50	b
Exmouth	4.0	-	10	50	s	Ross on Wye	2.8	-	9	48	s
Fishguard	3.0	-	9	48	b	Saunton Sands	3.8	-	11	52	s
Folkestone	4.5	-	10	50	b	Scarborough	1.2	-	7	45	b
Glasgow	-	0.01	9	48	r	Shrewsbury	2.5	-	9	48	fg
Guernsey	2.4	-	11	52	b	Skegness	2.6	-	8	46	s
Hastings	4.1	-	10	50	s	Southend	4.0	-	8	46	b
Hayling I.	3.7	-	10	50	s	Southport	X	-	8	46	b
Herne Bay	5.8	-	10	50	b	Stornoway	-	0.11	11	52	r
Hove	2.4	-	11	52	b	Swanage	4.3	-	10	50	b
Hunstanton	2.7	-	7	45	b	Teignmouth	4.8	-	11	52	s
Isle of Man	0.3	0.01	10	50	r	Tenby	3.1	-	10	50	s
Isle of Wight	X	-	10	50	b	Tiree	-	0.01	10	50	r
Jersey	0.4	-	10	50	b	Torquay	5.0	-	12	54	s
Kinloss	0.8	-	12	54	c	Weymouth	4.2	-	10	50	s

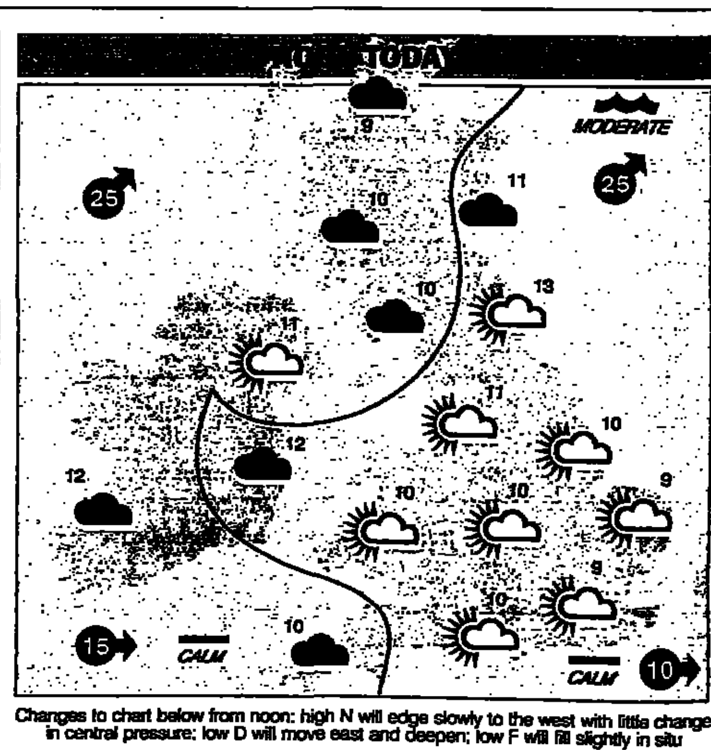
Extremes — day max: Tain Range, Highland, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries & Galloway, 6C (43F), highest rain: South Uist, Hebrides, 0.15in; highest sun: Herne Bay, Kent, 5.8hr.

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	7	45	f	Cologne	2	36	d	Madrid	3	37	s	Rome	7	45	s
Akrotiri	20	68	s	C'phagn	1	34	d	Majorca	10	50	f	Salzburg	-7	19	c
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Corfu	8	46	f	Malaga	13	55	f	S Frisco	8	46	s
Algiers	2	36	f	Dublin	9	48	s	Malta	9	48	f	Santiago	25	77	s
Amst'dm	7	45	c	Dubrovnik	5	41	s	Melbourne	27	81	s	S Paulo	X		
Athens	7	45	c	Faro	13	55	s	Mexico C	21	70	s	Seoul	6	43	s
Bahrain	22	72	s	Florence	3	37	c	Miami	24	75	s	Singapore	31	88	s
Bangkok	32	90	f	Frankfurt	-2	28	d	Milan	6	43	s	Stockholm	5	41	s
Barbados	26	79	c	Funchal	18	64	s	Montreal	-3	27	s	Strasb'rg	-2	28	sn
Barcelona	6	43	s	Geneva	-1	30	s	Moscow	-11	12	sn	Sydney	20	68	r
Beirut	18	64	s	Gibraltar	12	54	c	Munich	-6	21	f	Tangier	14	57	c
Belgrade	-5	23	c	Helsinki	1	34	c	Nairobi	28	82	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Berlin	2	36	d	Hong K	26	79	f	Naples	5	41	s	Tenerife	20	68	s
Bermuda	15	59	f	Innsbruck	-7	19	f	N Delhi	19	66	s	Tokyo	10	50	f
Biarritz	2	36	s	Istanbul	5	41	r	N York	3	37	f	Toronto	-3	27	c
Bordeaux	5	41	s	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	9	48	s	Tunis	4	39	f
Brussels	5	41	d	Jo'burg	23	73	s	Oslo	-4	25	fg	Valencia	7	45	s
Budapest	-3	27	s	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	5	41	c	Vanc'ver	7	45	f
B Aires	14	57	f	Le Touqt	7	45	f	Perth	23	73	s	Venice	2	36	f
Beijing	6	43	s	Lisbon	8	46	s	Prague	-5	23	c	Vienna	-3	27	f
Cairo	23	73	s	Locarno	0	32	f	Reykjavik	6	43	r	Warsaw	-5	23	r
Cape Tn	X			L Angeles	13	55	s	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	3	37	f
Chicago	6	43	f	Luxembg	0	32	d	Rio de J	30	86	c	Wellngton	15	59	X
Ch'church	13	55	X	Luxor	25	77	s	Riyadh	24	75	s	Zurich	-4	25	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high N will edge slowly to the west with little change in central pressure; low D will move east and deepen; low F will fill slightly in situ

Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	3:00	4.3	15:07	4.4
Avonmouth	8:57	13.5	21:19	13.3
Belfast	0:40	3.3	12:48	3.7
Cardiff	8:43	12.5	21:05	12.3
Devonport	7:35	5.4	19:55	5.1
Dover	0:27	6.7	12:48	6.5
Dublin	1:04	4.0	13:20	4.3
Falmouth	7:06	5.2	19:26	4.9
Greenock	2:20	3.3	14:10	3.7
Harwich	1:17	4.0	13:40	4.0
Holyhead	-	-	12:04	5.8
Hull (Albert D)	8:02	8.5	20:09	8.9
Ilfracombe	7:42	9.3	20:03	9.1
King's Lynn	8:03	6.5	20:06	6.7
Leith	4:15	5.5	16:36	5.6

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	0:43	9.4	13:00	9.5
London Bridge	3:28	7.3	15:51	7.4
Lowestoft	11:28	2.4	23:23	2.6
Margate	1:33	4.8	14:03	4.7
Milford Haven	7:57	7.0	20:17	6.8
Newquay	6:49	7.0	19:09	6.8
Oban	7:16	4.0	19:44	3.9
Penzance	6:18	5.7	18:36	5.4
Portland	8:45	2.1	21:09	1.8
Portsmouth	0:45	4.6	12:54	4.6
Shoreham	0:43	6.3	12:51	6.2
Southampton	0:26	4.6	12:36	4.4
Swansea	7:59	12.4	20:18	12.0
Tees	5:26	9.9	17:36	10.1
Walton-On-Naze	1:12	4.2	13:35	4.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1999

Markets stunned as Governor loses job to Soros aide after three weeks

Brazil replaces new bank chief


Soros: real undervalued

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE BRAZILIAN Government yesterday stunned international markets by sacking its Central Bank Governor for the second time in a month and naming a senior director from George Soros's investment company to the post.

Francisco Lopes is to step down as Governor only three weeks after replacing Gustavo Franco, in the wake of the Government's decision to float the Brazilian currency, the real.

He is to be replaced by Arminio Fraga, managing director of Soros Fund Management and a former director of International Affairs at the Brazilian Central Bank.

The appointment comes after a week of heated speculation over the future of both Senhor Lopes and Pedro Malan, the Brazilian Finance Minister. Rumours that Brazil was on the verge of imposing a freeze on bank accounts caused a run on deposits on Friday sending the real to a record low.

Markets are also anxiously awaiting the outcome of talks between Senhor Malan and the International Monetary Fund over the release of its second $9 billion instalment from a total $41.5 billion rescue package.

Senhor Malan is known to have met Senhor Fraga at the end of last week, although at the time the Government said that it was not intending to undertake an overhaul of Bank personnel. Yesterday it tried to play down the connections with Mr Soros insisting that Senhor Fraga has now severed all links with the Soros funds and did not necessarily share the views of his former boss.

However, the markets were hopeful that the appointment could lead to a relaxation in Brazil's punitively high interest rates after Mr Soros's forthright attack on the country's economic policy at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Monday.

Mr Soros claimed that the decision to raise interest rates after floating the currency was "a disastrous move" and called on the International Monetary Fund and Western governments to provide a "wall of money" to help to stabilise the Brazilian economy. The billionaire speculator added that the real was now heavily undervalued. He has not revealed the extent of his investments in Brazil, but first employed Senhor Fraga in 1993 to help to build up his exposure to the region.

Analysts gave Senhor Fraga's appointment a warm welcome claiming he has practical experience of working in volatile markets and is well known in international financial circles.

But there was concern that he might face a bumpy ride in the Brazilian Congress, which will have to confirm the appointment. Senators are unlikely to be impressed by Senhor Fraga's links with Mr Soros, the world's best-known financial speculator.

The surprise move caused immediate wobbles in Brazilian markets as traders digested the news. Shares fell more than 3 per cent in the first hour of trading before settling about 2 per cent lower. The real slid from 1.75 to 1.84 to the dollar, but closed back at 1.75.

Commentary, page 23




Lopes: stepping down

EURO HITS LOW AGAINST STERLING

EURO SLIDES

UK £ to 1 Euro

0.72
0.71
0.70
0.69
0.68

January

THE euro slid to a record low against the pound yesterday after fresh data pointed to a further slowdown in euroland growth.

The euro touched 68.60p, some 5 per cent below its launch price, after the release of a survey showing manufacturing output in the euro area had contracted for the fourth month running.

However, with interest rate decisions in Britain, Europe and the US expected during the next two days, trading was largely muted. The euro later recovered to close marginally up on the day at 68.98p.

The Federal Open Market Committee will make its decision today, with interest rates expected to be left on hold after unexpectedly strong fourth-quarter GDP growth. The European Central Bank is also expected to leave rates unchanged. But the market believes that the Bank of England will cut rates tomorrow.

Business Today

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Entrepreneur of the year
The search is under way for the best of British talent
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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6013.0	(+0.6)
Yield	2.70%	
FTSE All Share	2766.48	(+8.55)
Nikkei	14349.83	(-115.35)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9226.75	(-118.95)*
S&P Composite	1253.45	(-19.55)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]%*	(5%)
Long bond	100[illegible]*	(101[illegible])
Yield	5.24%*	(5.19%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	119.89	(120.06)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6435*	(1.6420)
London:		
$	1.6460	(1.6405)
€	1.4496	(1.4512)
SFr	2.3197	(2.3351)
Yen	185.25	(188.83)
£ Index	100.7	(100.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1328*	(1.1304)
SFr	1.4110*	(1.4220)
Yen	112.06*	(115.02)
$ index	104.5	(105.3)

Tokyo close Yen 113.18

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$10.90	($11.00)

GOLD

London close	$289.45	($287.55)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ...... Page 22

Maxwell's auditor admits 'we fell short'

BY ROBERT BRUCE AND JON ASHWORTH

THE former auditor to companies controlled by the late Robert Maxwell finally came clean yesterday, admitting that it had fallen "short of standards" in auditing the accounts of the late publishing tycoon.

The firm, Coopers & Lybrand, which became PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) on merging with Price Waterhouse last year, was yesterday censured, fined £1.2 million and ordered to pay costs of £2.1 million over failings in its auditing of the Maxwell group of companies by accountancy profession regulators. The penalties are the biggest ever levied against an accountancy firm.

Accepting all the findings against the firm, Peter Hazell, managing partner of PwC, admitted: "We fell short of the standards we set ourselves. We lacked objectivity and scepticism. We accept that." In addition to the penalties against the firm, four partners, all still with PwC, were also criticised.

John Cowling, the engagement partner for London and Bishopsgate International Investment Management and for First Tokyo Index Trust, both Maxwell funds, was censured and fined £11,050 plus costs of £75,000. Other partners, Stephen Wootten and Nicholas Parker, were admonished and ordered to pay £10,000 each in costs over their roles while another partner Ian Steere was ordered to pay £5,000 in costs.

The Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), which polices the accountancy profession, found that Coopers "lost the plot" in its dealings with the Maxwell companies. The firm admitted that it failed to consider evidence of fraud or other wrongdoings as of August 1991 — three months before Maxwell died.

A lack of objectivity in dealing with Maxwell and his companies lay at the heart of many of the complaints against Coopers. "The complaints reveal shortcomings in both vigilance and diligence and a failure to achieve an appropriate degree of objectivity and scepticism, which might have led to to an earlier recognition and exposure of the reality of what was occurring," the JDS report said.

They included such issues as failing to ensure that huge unsecured loans of pension fund assets to Maxwell's private companies were disclosed in public company accounts and reported to Imro, the investment management regulatory organisation; failing to consider, despite all the evidence, whether there was evidence of fraud and unlawful acts that would have required "whistleblowing"; and failing to qualify crucial public company accounts.

The firm's lead partner on the work, Peter Walsh, who has since died, is described as being of "the old school" and in awe of Maxwell, whose ultimate depredations were, for him, "perplexing and out of character". Coopers compounded this problem by understaffing the work and not providing enough people who had relevant experience.

One manager's notes in an assessment of the control environment are quoted in the report as saying "board and management one and the same, no internal independent review and there are not enough junior staff to allow senior staff a purely review role".


Vernon Sankey is leaving the group he joined in 1971 after seven years as chief executive

Fed moves on hedge funds

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE Federal Reserve has ordered US banks to keep a tighter rein on hedge funds after the Long Term Capital Management disaster last year.

In the first concrete step to regulate hedge funds, the Fed ruled that banks need to know the risks taken by fund managers before lending them money. The Fed called for a dual system of internal and independent risk measurements at the banks.

The order was issued as LTCM announced Nobel prize winner Myron Scholes and William Krasker, two of the fund's original partners, were retiring.

The near-collapse of LTCM last autumn led to fears of a systemic risk to the world economy and triggered a $3.6 billion (£2.18 billion) bailout by 14 Wall Street banks.

Most of the banks had been business partners of the fund that was run by a motley crew of star traders and Nobel laureates. Wall Street chiefs had been so impressed by their credentials that they failed to check the risks involved.

A Washington committee of Wall Street bankers and finance experts is currently working on guidelines for hedge funds. At the height of its troubles, the LTCM is believed to have borrowed $100 for every $1 it owned.

Launch of euro lifts Liffe trade

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE launch of the euro boosted trading volumes at Liffe, London's futures exchange, by 47 per cent last month.

The total value of contracts traded at the exchange reached £4.716 billion in January, compared with £3.227 billion in the previous month. However, on a year-on-year basis, trading volumes during the month were down 6 per cent. Trading levels were boosted because of the introduction of futures contracts based on Euribor.

Hugh Freeburg, Liffe's chief executive, said: "Liffe's Euribor Futures contract has grown from zero to €403 billion open interest, making it the most successful launch ever of a financial futures contract. Liffe's Euribor contract has been regularly breaking records and on January 27, set a new record trading €122 billion." It was feared that Liffe would lose business to other futures markets in Europe as the UK had opted out of the single currency.

Reckitt & Colman to offer Sankey payoff of £900,000

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

VERNON SANKEY is to part company with Reckitt & Colman, the Dettol-to-Lemsip group where he has been chief executive for seven years and where he has been employed since 1971.

Mr Sankey, who was paid £503,000 last year, is expected to receive about £900,000 compensation for the loss of his job. In a statement Reckitt & Colman said that the next phase of its strategy "requires the appointment of a new chief executive".

Shares in the company shot 50½p higher to close at 870p on renewed speculation that the company could face a bid. Unilever, cash-rich after the sale of its speciality chemicals business to ICI and which is keen to build its stable of consumer brands, is seen as the most likely bidder.

Michael Turrell, director for global operations, has been made acting chief executive with immediate effect. He may be confirmed in the job, although the company is also hiring headhunters in its quest for a permanent replacement. Mr Sankey will stay on the board for a two-month handover period.

Reckitt & Colman issued a profits warning in November, complaining that trading results were below expectations because of problems in Asia and the US. Brokers have recently made further downgrades of their profit forecasts because of worries about sales of the company's products in Brazil.

Mr Sankey, 49, has thoroughly restructured the group during his time in charge, focusing on over-the-counter medicines and branded household goods. Reckitt said yesterday that its strategy remained unchanged.

Commentary, page 23

Half a million ignore tax Hectoring

Hector the tax inspector

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

MORE than half a million people could be fined up to a total of £50 million by the Inland Revenue after failing to file their tax returns by the end-of-year deadline at the weekend.

In total, nine million tax forms were due from taxpayers working under the new self-assessment rules. The Inland Revenue said yesterday that it had received only 8.2 million returns from this total. Last year, 1.1 million tax forms failed to reach the Inland Revenue's offices on time, and a total of 820,000 people were fined. The revenue said yesterday that 300,000 of these tax forms were still outstanding.

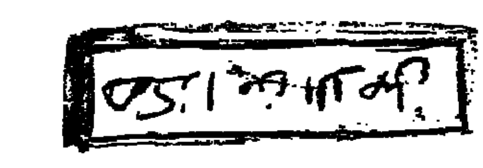
Those who missed the deadline will face an automatic fine of up to £100, while those who missed last year's deadline, and still have not submitted the form, face paying another £100 penalty.

"Overall the results of the second year of self-assessment are encouraging and they show that both taxpayers and their advisers are becoming more familiar with the new system," said an Inland Revenue spokesman. But although more taxpayers are hitting the deadlines, evidence from this year suggest many are still leaving it until the last minute, with one million taxpayers submitting their forms on Saturday or Sunday.

The 650,000 who failed to submit forms will be fined according to how much tax they owe. A spokesman said that only the critically ill would escape the fine. Those who owe less than £100 in tax would not have to pay the full penalty for the missed deadline. As well as the one-off penalty, any unpaid tax would be subject to interest payments at a rate of 8.5 per cent on the outstanding tax.

A recent report from the Inland Revenue revealed that the total cost of introducing the self-assessment tax regime was about £800 million. The exercise involved a £60 million training programme to help staff in 600 offices get to grips with the new regime.

LINKS
WEBSITE:
http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/sa/



ARM up on profits increase

Shares in ARM Holdings, the microprocessor designer floated at 800p last April, rose 100p yesterday to close at £18.25 after the company announced better than expected profits. Profits for the year to December 31 more than doubled to £9.4 million, from £4.5 million. Earnings per share were 12.5p (7.4p). There is no dividend. Tempus, page 24

US bus buy

National Express has bought a second US school bus company. It is to pay £15 million for Robinson Bus Service, which runs 11 routes in Chicago, Detroit and Philidelphia and made £1.1 million profits on £14 million sales in its latest year. National paid £11.6 million for Crabtree-Harmon in Missouri four months ago.

Staffware warning

Paul Fullagar and John O'Connell, chairman and chief executive of Staffware, an AIM-listed software company, yesterday saw their paper losses in a year reach £22 million and £15 million, respectively, as its shares fell 27 per cent on a profit warning blamed on rising marketing costs. Over 12 months, they have fallen from 945p to 190p.

Debenhams sale

Terry Green, chief executive of Debenhams, has sold £109,950 worth of shares in it, the department store company said yesterday. The sale of 30,000 shares at 366½p on Monday leaves him with 50,427 shares, a 0.013 per cent stake. Debenhams shares still rose yesterday from 350½p to 379½p on a recommendation upgrade from Merrill Lynch.

DeVilbiss referral

Kim Howells, Competition Minister, has referred a proposed acquisition of DeVilbiss Medequip by Air Products and Chemicals to the Monopolies Commission after Office of Fair Trading advice on the market for oxygen concentrators in the UK. It is due to report by May 7.

Radio venture

Kelvin MacKenzie, chief executive of Talk Radio, has linked up with Chris Evans, the broadcaster, and Clear Channel, a US media group, to bid for regional digital radio licences. Bids for the first such licence, for Greater London, must be made by May.

'Symbol of rebirth' for Ulster calls in receivers

By Adam Jones

MACKIE INTERNATIONAL, the company once held up by President Clinton as a "symbol of Northern Ireland's rebirth", has called in the receivers, jeopardising about 310 jobs and £32 million of public money.

The West Belfast engineer was founded in the 1840s, making it one of the Province's oldest companies. It made machinery for the textiles industry but was trying desperately to diversify into castings and machine parts as clothmakers struggled.

Mackie was the setting for President Clinton's keynote speech during his visit to Northern Ireland in December 1995. He praised the co-operation of Catholic and Protestant workers on the shop floor.

He said Mackie had long been a symbol of world-class engineering: "The textile machines you make permit people to weave disparate threads into remarkable fabrics. That is now what you must do here in Northern Ireland."

Mackie's stock market history was turbulent, however. It listed in 1994 and its shares peaked at 159½p in 1996. Its 1996 annual results had to be revised. What had been a £400,000 profit had to be changed to a £7.2 million loss. The executive chairman at the time, Paul Dougan, and the finance director, Shaun Harte, a former DeLorean Motor Company director, left the company.

A £5 million rights issue then flopped in August 1997. The shares were suspended at 9½p last October when it said it was close to making an acquisition. The company it was chasing turned out to be Shield, an engineer based in Leicester.

Shield was wanted for its order book but Mackie could not raise the necessary £14 million. A spokeswoman for Mackie said yesterday that it needed just £500,000 more to do the deal. However, it is thought that some of the bid would have been funded in shares.

Deloitte & Touche, the accountant, was called in as administrative receiver yesterday by Ulster Bank, a subsidiary of NatWest. The Deloitte team is headed by Roger Powdrill and Tom Keenan.

Mackie owes £18.3 million. Attempts to save the business are likely to centre on its newest foundry, which cost £15 million and opened in 1996. It is thought that foreign buyers will be approached. Since 1990, the Industrial Development Board of Northern Ireland has pumped £32 million into Mackie to keep it afloat.

Commentary, page 23



Sir Neville Simms says he is revealing Tarmac's value

Chief agrees to split Tarmac

By Fraser Nelson

SIR NEVILLE SIMMS, chief executive of Tarmac, has agreed to split the company in two — bowing to shareholders who demanded action after its failed merger talks with the rival Aggregate Industries.

Tarmac's construction division, which is carrying out £1 billion of Private Finance Initiative work for the Government, is to be split from the heavy building materials division in the autumn.

City analysts believe that Sir Neville is preparing the remaining Tarmac for a merger, either as the dominant partner with Aggregate Industries or with another rival.

Sir Neville said: "The City will be able to see the true value of both businesses, and there will be no more stories about how Tarmac Construction is worth nothing. They will be able to merge or make partnerships without worrying about the other one."

Analysts believe that the construction division would need a heavy injection of capital to become independent.

Aggregate Industries, which six weeks ago broke off takeover talks, had meant to spin off Tarmac's construction division if the merger succeeded.

Tarmac Construction generates 57 per cent of group sales, but only 17 per cent of profits. Sir Neville said it may be sold and demerged simultaneously. The Tarmac name will stay with the building materials division. Demerger details will be given on March 16.

Tarmac shares rose 4½p to 75p yesterday.

Edmonds mobile call

DAVID EDMONDS, the Director-General of Telecommunications, called on Britain's four mobile telephone operators to come up with clear information on the quality of their services after his own survey revealed wide variations in call success rates (Raymond Snoddy writes).

A survey by the regulator, which was carried out in December by independent consultants, revealed differing success rates that were dependent on geography and mode of transport.

The survey found that on four rail routes tested, Orange performed best with an 89 per cent success rate, followed by Cellnet (79 per cent), One-2-One (78 per cent) and Vodafone (73 per cent). In the City of London all networks performed well, with Orange again coming top with a 98 per cent success rate.

Mr Edmonds said yesterday that more comprehensive data was now required. He gave warning that if the mobile operators did not start providing greater information for customers he would consider further use of his statutory powers to ensure it happened.

Pakistan hits Hub

HUB POWER, a Pakistani power generator in which National Power has a 26 per cent stake, yesterday had its bank accounts frozen in a dramatic escalation of its long-running dispute with state authorities (Saeed Shah writes).

National Power has taken a hit of £25 million in its interim results as a result of losses at Hubco and Kot Addu, its other power project in Pakistan, with analysts predicting further decreases as the dispute surrounding its previously lucrative Pakistani investments drags on.

The Pakistani Government has frozen Hubco's bank accounts after it refused to pay a two billion rupee (£23.5 million) demand for withholding tax on shares issued over the past few years. Kurshid Husain, chief executive of Hubco, says no such tax exists and that the company will appeal.

Islamabad accuses Hubco of corruption and overcharging customers, allegations that the company has denied.

National Power paid $101 million (£61 million) for its Hubco holding, and it invested $291 million for a 36 per cent stake in Kot Addu.

BAT ruling overturned on appeal

From Oliver August in New York

A FLORIDA court has overturned a landmark anti-smoking ruling against British American Tobacco that had threatened to trigger a flood of costly claims.

The state appeals court has ruled that the case, in which the family of Roland Maddox, a smoker who died of cancer, won $1 million damages from BAT last year, had been riddled with errors. It was found that the case had been heard by the wrong court and had made illegitimate use of BAT documents.

The Maddox family were recipients of the first million-dollar payout in a product liability case against a US tobacco company. The ruling was hailed as a breakthrough by anti-smoking campaigners.Thousands of other smokers and their families had hoped the case would set a precedent for further payouts to sufferers of tobacco-related illnesses.

Brown & Williamson, the BAT subsidiary that manufactures Lucky Strike cigarettes, said the volte face by the Florida courts was a "huge victory".

The overturning of the Maddox verdict comes after the collapse of several other cases against tobacco companies over the issue of smokers' health.

American regulator attacks SB

By Paul Durman

THE US Food and Drug Administration has severely criticised SmithKline Beecham for serious and persistent failures in hygiene standards at a Pennsylvania manufacturing plant.

In its strongly worded warning letter to Jan Leschly, America's medicines watchdog holds the SB chief executive personally responsible for the "significant deviations from Current Good Manufacturing Practices". It says: "As top management, the responsibility to ensure that all requirements of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and its associated regulations are met belongs to you."

The letter, sent last month, continues: "Failure to promptly take corrective action may result in regulatory action without further notice. Possible actions include seizure and/or injunction. Also, the Philadelphia District Office will recommend disapproval of any new applications listing your firm as the manufacturer of sterile drug products."

It is rare for a leading drugs group to receive an FDA warning letter. Shares in SB, which is hoping for rapid approval of its new diabetes drug, dropped 28½p to 819½p yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

British Energy set to confound City

BRITISH ENERGY yesterday surprised the City with an upbeat forecast of its results, saying pre-tax profits would beat expectations at more than £270 million. Some analysts had pencilled in estimates of about £240 million compared with last year's profits of £191 million. Its shares climbed 27p to 723½p after the nuclear generator said it had boosted output by 3.9 per cent over the past year. It said it would exceed analysts' forecasts for the results — that are published in May — if inflation did not jump above 3 per cent and if there are no sudden shutdowns at its power stations.

The market is trying to predict British Energy's next significant move. It was beaten by Electricité de France in the bid battle for London Electricity but the company has made clear its wish to expand its generation by trying to buy coal-fired stations from PowerGen and National Power.

Granada pay protest

GERRY ROBINSON, chairman of Granada, and other executive directors will face a "fat cats" protest today as they arrive for a shareholders meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London. Broadcasting unions that have balloted for strike action throughout Granada Media plan to deliver bags full of artificial money to highlight what they see as the disparity between the 14 per cent pay rises of the executive directors and the staff pay award of 3.6 per cent.

Lafarge rises 53%

LAFARGE GROUP, the building materials group that bought Redland in 1997, yesterday said that 1998 sales were up 53 per cent to €9.8 billion (£6.8 billion). Excluding results from Redland, the rise was 8 per cent. Sales posted by former Redland units over the whole year were €2.9 billion, an increase of 3 per cent on 1997 or a 1 per cent increase on the same reporting basis. Lafarge said that it saw a slight increase in business in Western Europe.

RBS raises $250m

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND has raised $250 million (£156 million) in preference shares in US markets to bolster its capital base. The bank said the preference share issue would lift its tier 1 capital ratio by 0.3 percentage points from the 6.6 per cent reported with its year-end profits at the end of September. Its capital base was slightly diluted by its recent purchase of the remaining 23.5 per cent stake in Citizens, its US subsidiary. Raising money in the US helps to balance its international books.

ITG plans Net service

AN INTERNET service provider is in talks with retailers and media groups to launch rival services to Dixons's Freeserve. Internet Technology Group, which has partnerships with telecoms groups such as Energis, WorldCom and Cable & Wireless, also reported maiden profits, turning a £2 million loss the previous year into a £55,000 pre-tax surplus for the 12 months to October 31. Sales were £11 million, up from £4 million, while earnings per share were 0.12p (6.61p loss).

Caradon sells Terrain

CARADON, the building products group, has furthered its disposal programme with the sale of Terrain, its plastic pipes business, for £27 million. The sale was flagged last year by Jürgen Hintz, chief executive, who wants the group to focus on plumbing, electrical controls and printing personalised cheque books. Terrain made £1.2 million profit from revenues of £25.5 million last year. Caradon also wants to sell its US and UK doors and windows businesses and its UK steel lintels business.

Arjo revenue falls

ARJO WIGGINS APPLETON, the paper group, said that revenue fell 3.6 per cent in the December quarter to £813.6 million. The company said that volumes were 2.8 per cent lower than in the same period a year earlier and that prices also dropped. This took revenue for 1998 to £3.18 billion, down 2.6 per cent. Ken Minton, chairman, said that a strategic committee had been created to determine growth prospects for the group's three divisions and how they should be split.

Eurodis sales decline

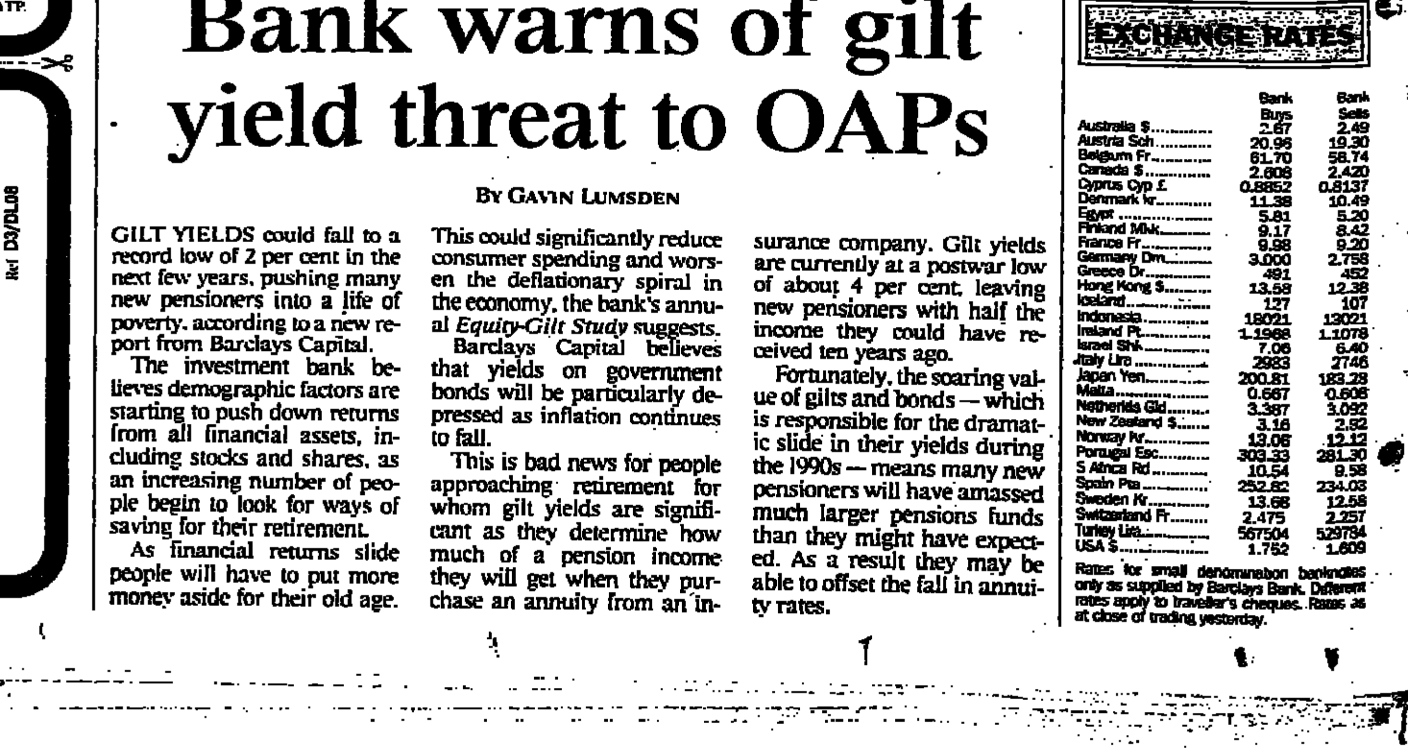
EURODIS ELECTRON, the electronic component distributor, yesterday said that a weak UK market and slower growth in mainland Europe were to blame for falling sales. The group reported pre-tax profits of £3.4 million for the six months to November 30 (£3.6 million) from sales that fell to £146.3 million (£152.5 million). Earnings were down to 2.79p a share (3.44p), but the interim dividend of 2.15p was maintained. The shares, which were 185½p last May, yesterday fell 5½p to 67p.

SOMI wins contract

AN AIM-LISTED sports advertising group backed by John Beckwith, the property entrepreneur, said yesterday that it had signed up to advise the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) "on all aspects of its commercial activities". Sports & Outdoor Media International said that it would give advice on sponsorship rights and perimeter advertising hoardings at Test cricket grounds under a contract that is expected to generate £80 million for the ECB.

Unigate buys Wessex

UNIGATE, the dairy company, has agreed to buy the doorstep milk delivery business of Wessex Dairies for £7 million in cash. The acquisition, dependent on approval from the Office of Fair Trading, includes 20 milk delivery depots serving more than 150,000 customers, mostly in the West of England, with annual turnover of £25 million. Chris Roberts, managing director of Unigate Dairies, said: "This acquisition again demonstrates our commitment to doorstep delivery."



Bank warns of gilt yield threat to OAPs

By Gavin Lumsden

GILT YIELDS could fall to a record low of 2 per cent in the next few years, pushing many new pensioners into a life of poverty, according to a new report from Barclays Capital.

The investment bank believes demographic factors are starting to push down returns from all financial assets, including stocks and shares, as an increasing number of people begin to look for ways of saving for their retirement.

As financial returns slide people will have to put more money aside for their old age. This could significantly reduce consumer spending and worsen the deflationary spiral in the economy, the bank's annual *Equity-Gilt Study* suggests.

Barclays Capital believes that yields on government bonds will be particularly depressed as inflation continues to fall.

This is bad news for people approaching retirement for whom gilt yields are significant as they determine how much of a pension income they will get when they purchase an annuity from an insurance company. Gilt yields are currently at a postwar low of about 4 per cent, leaving new pensioners with half the income they could have received ten years ago.

Fortunately, the soaring value of gilts and bonds — which is responsible for the dramatic slide in their yields during the 1990s — means many new pensioners will have amassed much larger pensions funds than they might have expected. As a result they may be able to offset the fall in annuity rates.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.67	2.49
Austria Sch	20.96	19.30
Belgium Fr	61.70	58.74
Canada $	2.608	2.420
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8852	0.8137
Denmark Kr	11.38	10.49
Egypt	5.81	5.20
Finland Mkk	9.17	8.42
France Fr	9.98	9.20
Germany Dm	3.000	2.758
Greece Dr	491	452
Hong Kong $	13.58	12.38
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	18021	13021
Ireland Pt	1.1968	1.1078
Israel Shk	7.06	6.40
Italy Lira	2983	2746
Japan Yen	200.81	183.28
Malta	0.667	0.608
Netherlds Gld	3.387	3.092
New Zealand $	3.16	2.92
Norway Kr	13.06	12.12
Portugal Esc	303.33	281.30
S Africa Rd	10.54	9.58
Spain Pta	252.82	234.03
Sweden Kr	13.68	12.58
Switzerland Fr	2.475	2.257
Turkey Lira	567504	529784
USA $	1.752	1.609

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

The lifeblood of the economy

Entrepreneurs provide the lifeblood of the economy. From small, energetic businesses can larger companies grow, creating the jobs essential to the country's prosperity. Big businesses, meanwhile, are either becoming even bigger, indulging in the latest round of mega-mergers in the hope that two sets of profits can be sustained on less than two sets of staff, or they are turning into smaller businesses themselves, subjected to enforced slimming regimes in the hope of sustaining long-term health.

The Times recognises the importance of the entrepreneurial spirit and today we announce the launch of an initiative to reward the best of Britain's entrepreneurs. The search will range widely, with regional finals leading to the selection of national winners in several different categories. And because the Entrepreneur of the Year programme is being led by Ernst & Young, there is an added international dimension. The ultimate British winner could find himself — or herself: an increasing number of entrepreneurs are female — at a conference in the US comparing notes with the winners of contests held in 20 different countries.

The chance to talk with others who are battling to build businesses is one that most entrepreneurs would appreciate, for they can find theirs a lonely existence.

Politicians all agree that entrepreneurs are a force for good and say so, often and loudly. "We will lead a crusade to develop in Britain the spirit of enterprise, so characteristic of the United States, so that we seize the new, big opportunities before us," declared Peter Mandelson before his abrupt departure from the Department of Trade and Industry. His sentiments could have been uttered by any of his Tory predecessors or by Stephen Byers, the current incumbent.

But actions to aid the lot of entrepreneurs flow less freely than the warm words. Red tape remains a stultifying problem, despite the establishment of various task forces promising to wield shears. The CBI recently begged for more cuts in the bureaucratic burdens that hamper business.

McKinsey, when set to work by the Chancellor to determine why British productivity lagged behind that of Germany and the US, cited red tape, including planning restrictions, as a significant drag. Yet, aided by Brussels, the Government seems intent on tying up business with more rules and regulation. While this is a nuisance for large firms, for smaller organisations, with only a handful of staff working flat out, it can be lethal. Small firms flourish only by being fast and flexible, responding to changes in the marketplace almost before they have happened. The impositions of the Working Time Directive and the minimum wage can only make them less fleet of foot.

However, in our search for the Entrepreneur of the Year, we will seek out those who fail to be deterred by the difficulties of running a business. There are some great successes who have triumphed against the obstacles. Their stories will make encouraging reading.



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Brazil tries Sorosisation

Smash and grab raids by Western speculators have obliged governments in three continents and many languages to agree that if you cannot beat them, you had probably better join them. Only Malaysia is holding out but the internal antics of Mahathir Mohamed, its Prime Minister, ruined his case.

In South America, both Brazil and Argentina have had to dance to the IMF tune. Even in their responses to the slump-bearing forces of markets, however, the rival giants are competing.

From the last time, Argentina was committed to a dollar-linked currency board system. It outflanked speculators trying to break that link by threatening to ditch its currency altogether and adopt the US dollar as its own.

Brazil's Fernando Cardoso, the John Major of Latin America, could not match that after seeing the fruits of his "hard real" policy disappear in the dust thrown up by departing foreign "investors". Even devaluation had to be abandoned in favour of a freely sinking currency, down a third since mid-January.

So the world's eighth biggest economy has opted for the next best thing. Instead of dollarisation, try Sorosisation. Arminio Fraga, an aide of the great hypocrite, is to be installed as head of Brazil's central bank.

He has credibility with the markets, they say. By sheer coincidence, George Soros was showing his caring face in Davos just as Mr Fraga was receiving his charge from Pedro Malan, the Finance Minister. Mr Soros was rightly berating the vain attempt to shore up the real by measures of such austerity, including high interest rates, that depression was certain.

Now that the real is floating, interest rates are still running at 39 per cent. While the hard real policy lasted, it did a fine job of eliminating Brazil's notorious high inflation and raising real incomes for ordinary people. Brazil is still at risk of inflation returning.

The country does not, however, need any increase in austerity. The trailed doubling of interest rates would just bring a downward spiral of budgetary deficits, undoing hard-won fiscal gains.

Mr Soros knows this. Mr Malan knows this and presumably so does Mr Fraga. It will be interesting to see if they agree with Stanley Fischer, IMF number two, who is now in Brasilia to negotiate conditions for the release of the next instalment of the $41.5 billion loan agreed last November to forestall devaluation. In Brazil, as almost everywhere, the top priority is to stop recession and get growth moving again, in part through monetary policy.

As it happens, Mr Fraga agrees with Argentina that there are too many currencies, but that will have to come later.

No longer as hot as mustard

Vernon Sankey's departure from Reckitt & Colman after no less than 28 years and seven years as chief executive, took the market quite by surprise. Although he had to deliver a profits warning in November, and has been castigated for not managing expectations better, many other chief executives have found themselves in similar positions recently and have managed to hang on to their jobs if not all of their reputations.

Reckitt is certainly in a difficult bind. Its expansion in some emerging markets has left it vulnerable to the woes of their economies, while it has been caught out by US retailers' increasing insistence on just-in-time ordering. Even without Colman or Reckitt, it still has a fine portfolio of brands, which are undoubtedly attractive to bigger multinational competitors. Reckitt's disadvantage is that while it is large, it is not so large that a group like Unilever or Sara Lee might not find it relatively easy to buy. Expectations that a deal is pending made the shares leap yesterday.

In the absence of a clear explanation, it does not take a very vivid imagination to conclude that Mr Sankey and his fellow directors did not see eye to eye on how Reckitt should manage its way out of its corner, alone or by merger; with a new strategy, or its current one. For the future, Mr Sankey may feel he does not have much to lose by going. After all, Barclays, BPB, EMI, Cable & Wireless, *et al*, are all on the look out for experienced chief executives, previous incumbents having failed to cut the mustard.

False dawn

WORDS are cheap but reality is harsh. Three years ago, textile engineer Mackie International was hailed by Bill Clinton as the symbol of co-operation across the divides in the new Northern Ireland. Yesterday, receivers were called in. Let us hope that has none of the symbolism America's President offered so freely. No one makes a profit, any more than they can make a peaceful future, merely with good intentions. Mackie was in the wrong business, in the wrong place with the wrong management. Even with a true peace, Ulster will have to fight hard for prosperity.

Weir shares surge on bid approach

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

SHARES of Weir Group, the pump manufacturer based in Glasgow, yesterday leapt 27 per cent to 294½p, after the company confirmed it had received an approach that could lead to a takeover bid.

Market speculation about the likely predator focused on a range of leading American engineering companies, including ITT Industries, Flowserve, Idex, Ingersoll Dresser IDP and Textron.

ITT is believed to have had a long-standing interest in Weir, which intensified in the wake of ITT's purchase in 1997 of Gould, one of the Scottish company's largest competitors.

Yesterday's speculation lifted Weir's market capitalisation to £587 million and dragged up the rest of the engineering sector in its wake.

The FTSE engineering sector index closed 4.9 per cent higher at 2,318.0 points compared with a rise of just 0.6 points in the FTSE 100 index to 6,013.0. Analysts said the engineering sector had been largely ignored by investors who have been concentrating on more fashionable sectors such as telecoms.

Sandy Morris, an analyst with ABN Amro, said he believed any takeover suitor would have to bid at least 350p a share for Weir to stand a chance of success. The shares, however, were last at those levels five years ago.

"Weir has not performed badly or let us down, but it is where it is because it has not shown the zip, sparkle or vision that the market demands," Mr Morris said.

Analysts said the relatively low price/earnings multiples applied to British engineering stocks made them highly vulnerable to their more expensive counterparts in America.

They said that, as the seventh-largest pumpmaker in the world, it is almost inevitable that Weir will become part of the consolidation underway in the industry.

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Armitage Shanks goes to US

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

ONE of the most quintessential of English brands fell into foreign hands yesterday as the 190-year-old Armitage Shanks company was sold to the US group American Standard.

Five months after putting it on the market, Blue Circle, the building materials group, said it was selling Armitage Shanks to the owner of Ideal Standard, its main bathrooms business rival, for £253 million.

The acquisition includes Ceramica Dolomite, Blue Circle's Italian bathroom fittings manufacturer and the combined operation will become Europe's largest bathrooms business. Ideal is thought to have beaten competition from a number of European bidders including Sanitec, a division of Finland's Metra, and Keramik Laufen of Switzerland.

Roger Cooper, managing director of Ideal, said that it was too soon to comment on redundancy plans.

Housing is recovering, says Crest

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

A STABLE housing market and an expanded portfolio helped to lift full-year profits of Crest Nicholson, the housebuilding and property group, by 37 per cent, to £28.1 million.

John Calcutt, chief executive, said that a surge in sales last month after an unusually quiet run-up to Christmas suggested that the housing market was in "recovery mode". He said: "Visitor levels are up, reservations are up."

Crest's average selling price rose by almost 20 per cent, to £117,800. Its land holding rose 27 per cent in 1998 to 17,253 plots. Its main 1998 acquisition was a site for 772 homes at Chigwell, Essex.

Sales for the year to October 31 rose 32 per cent, to £465 million. Earnings per share rose to 16.6p, from 11.75p. A 3.25p final dividend makes 4.75p (3.75p).

Tempus, page 24

Eurotunnel nets profit on debt

EUROTUNNEL, the Channel Tunnel operator, yesterday made an £89 million profit by taking advantage of the City's lack of confidence in its ability to repay its £7.2 billion debt mountain (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company spent £38 million buying £134 million of loan notes — using cash won from suing TML, the consortium that built the tunnel.

These loan notes changed hands at 26p for every £1 of its debt — a price that reflects fears that Eurotunnel's chances of defaulting are still high.

Shares of Eurotunnel added 4½p to 75½p yesteday, as analysts said the deal should reduce its interest payments by £1.3 million a year.

Eurotunnel was only able to buy back the loan notes because the money came directly from TML, which was collected in November after defects were found on freight trains.

The company is forbidden from spending its own cashflow on buying loan notes under the debt for equity swap agreed with its banks in April last year.



STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Talk of bid for AIB boosts banks sector

THE telephone lines between Dublin and London were running red hot with the speculators telling anyone who would listen that a bid is on the way for **Allied Irish Banks**.

Word is someone is poised to offer £15 a share, valuing the company at £1.12 billion. AIB finished 73p higher at £12.62½, just below its best level of £13.94 last month. Turnover was on the high side with 3.68 million shares changing hands in a marketplace where traders are normally only willing to make a price and size in 15,000 at a time.

Brokers say suitors are likely to include the powerful **Deutsche Bank** and our own **Lloyds TSB**, up 14p at 817½p. It could mark the first stage in the consolidation of the banking sector. The high street is over-run when it comes to banks and something has to give, say analysts.

A bid for AIB would follow close on the heels of the proposed merger between Paribas and Société Générale, announced earlier this week.

Elsewhere in the banking sector gains were seen in **Barclays**, 68p to £14.59, **Abbey National**, 43p to £12.48, **Bank of Scotland**, 26½p to 808p, **NatWest**, 41p to £11.96, and **Royal Bank of Scotland**, 47½p to £11.45.

Second-line stocks continued to provide the driving force for the rest of the market. The FTSE 250 index finished the session 93.5 up at 5,215.3, while the FTSE 100 index rallied from a near 100-point fall to close just 0.6 up at 6,013.0. Total turnover was a healthy 1.2 billion shares, despite opening losses for the Dow Jones industrial average in New York.

Dealers say that demand for second-line issues remains strong as investors search for value. Stock shortages have combined with high levels of corporate activity to fuel many of the gains.

Daily Mail & General Trust, up 12½p at £29.37½ with the "A" down 4p at £31.96 is tipped as the front-runner to replace **BTR**, up 6p at 129p, as a constituent of the top 100 companies. The vacancy opens up after BTR completes its merger with **Siebe**, 10½p dearer at 240p.

The odds on a bid for **BICC** have shortened. The price raced up 10½p to 74p on the news that Wassall, the industrial conglomerate, had raised its holding to 9.3 per cent and may consider making a full bid at some stage. No approach has, so far, been made to the BICC board. The cables and Balfour Beatty construction group has seen its price slump from a peak of 181p last year, making it vulnerable. A hefty 17.5 million shares were traded.

Speculative buying continued to hoist **Pilkington** higher with a rise of of 2½p to 67p. Dealers say the collapse in the price from the 148p level last year has left the company vulnerable to a bid. The Prudential Corporation has raised its holding to 29.7 million, or 2.72 per cent.

Bid hopes are running high at **Christian Salvesen**, up 8p at 94p. Earlier this week, Veba, the German group, said it was paying $423 million for BTL, the Swedish transport company. **Hayes**, 1½p firmer at 597½p, is tipped as a likely suitor for the logistics specialist.

Intercare advanced 7½p to 62½p amid claims that it may soon find itself on the receiving end of a bid. Word is an American buyer is ready to offer 85p a share.

Traders are bracing themselves for some imminent news from **First Leisure**, the nightclubs and leisure group headed by Michael Grade. The shares raced up 14p to 202p last night amid hopes that a bid may be on the way. Last month the group said it was in "strategic talks". **Bass**, unchanged at 870p, remains favourite to make a move.

Crest Nicholson, 3½p dearer at 125p, lived up to City expectations with a good set of full-year profits and upbeat comments about current trading. Dealers hope it may provide the basis for similar performances by other housebuilders such as **Barratt Developments**, up 27p at 250½p, **Beazer**, 16½p better at 172p, **Berkeley Group**, 11p at 503½p, and **Wainhomes**, 13p at 118½p.

News of share-buying by the chairman enabled **Uno** to firm 3p to 36½p.

Share purchases at **Hazlewood Foods** lifted the price 3½p to 118½p. Peter Barr, chairman, has picked up 50,000 shares at 115p. He now holds 4.26 million, or 1.8 per cent, of the food supplier.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors were in a cautious mood ahead of the start of this month's Monetary Policy Committee meeting. Prices opened lower and traded in narrow limits for much of the session before putting in a late run to close above their lows of the day.

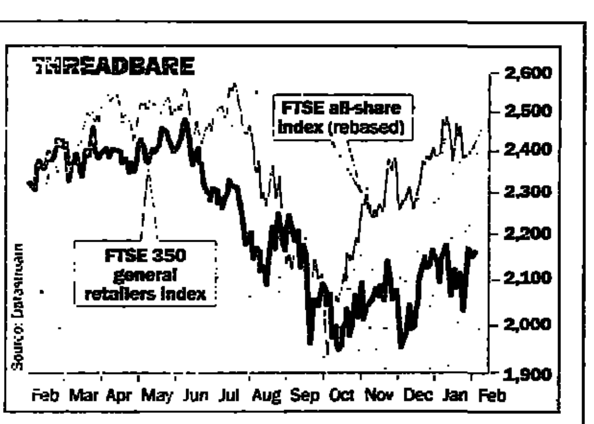
Monday's comments from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, at the Bankers Club annual dinner were well received. He said the Bank must be prepared for a further easing of monetary policy if demand looked likely to fall short of expectations. Short dated issues responded positively.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 17p to £119.89 in thin trading. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were sharply lower in late morning trading as investors took profits. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 118.95 at 9,226.75.



John Matthews, left, the chairman of Crest Nicholson, and John Calcutt, chief executive, saw the shares put on 3½p



IT HAS been a chill wind blowing through the clothing retailers of late. But things may be looking up. Merrill Lynch, the broker, is becoming more upbeat. It has raised its medium-term recommendations on both Arcadia, up 18p to 186½p, and Debenhams, 29p dearer at 379½p, from "neutral" to "accumulate". Its long-term view on Debenhams has been moved from "neutral" to "buy".

Merrill is also taking a more upbeat view of prospects for Next, 26½p higher at 664p, and has moved its recommendation from "reduce" to "neutral".

It seems that trading conditions cannot get much worse for the clothes retailers and any pick-up later this year at Arcadia will be underpinned by cost savings.

Meanwhile, Next should be able to take advantage of problems at Marks & Spencer, 5p cheaper at 355¼p, to grab market share. But Morgan Stanley has downgraded Next from "strong buy" to "outperform".

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9226.75 (-118.95)
S&P Composite	1253.45 (-19.55)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14349.83 (-115.35)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9502.72 (-98.33)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	532.79 (-7.22)
Sydney:	
AO	2907.00 (-16.70)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5166.87 (-23.95)
Singapore:	
Straits	1386.59 (-20.28)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3455.19 (+10.29)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4243.57 (-60.35)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1479.00 (-0.80)
London:	
FT 30	3646.8 (+8.1)
FTSE 100	6013.0 (+0.6)
FTSE 250	5215.3 (+93.5)
FTSE 350	2855.7 (+8.3)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2811.24 (-22.02)
FTSE All-Share	2755.48 (+8.56)
FTSE Non Financials	2823.52 (-2.81)
FTSE Fixed Interest	157.86 (-0.34)
FTSE Govt Secs	116.53 (-0.25)
Bargains	78559
SEAQ Volume	1204.3m
US$	1.6461 (+0.0057)
Euro	0.6898 (+0.0006)
£:SDR	1.1813
Exchange Index	100.7 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	164.4 Dec (2.8%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	162.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM VCT	100	..	
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	88	..	
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	98½	...	
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	118½	...	
Close Bros Dev VCT	100	...	
Five Arrws Uts Cv Ln 2040	106½	−	½
Gander Properties	7	..	
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108¾	...	
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	99½	+	¼
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100	...	
Virtual Internet	205	−	5
Yeoman II Equity Units	101	+	½
Yeoman II Inv Tst Cap	5¼	−	½
Yeoman II Inv Tst Inc	97	+	¾
Yeoman II Zero Div Pf	116¾	+	¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Scotia	67	+ 15½	+ 30.0
Weir	294½	+ 62½	+ 26.9
BBA	454½	+ 58	+ 14.6
Meggitt	171	+ 21½	+ 14.3
Williams	372¾	+ 43½	+ 13.2
Lynx Group	213½	+ 23½	+ 12.3
Wainhomes	118½	+ 13	+ 12.3
Barratt Devs	250½	+ 27	+ 12.0
Travis Perkins	402½	+ 42½	+ 11.8
FKI	157½	+ 16½	+ 11.7
Blacks Leis	214½	+ 21	+ 10.8
TI	410	+ 40	+ 10.8
Spirax-Sarco	549	+ 49½	+ 9.9
Vickers Grp	164½	+ 14½	+ 9.6
Britax	130½	+ 11½	+ 9.6
EFM	263	+ 23	+ 9.5
Carpetright	266½	+ 21½	+ 8.7
Fairey Group	275½	+ 21½	+ 8.4
Debenhams	379½	+ 29	+ 8.2
IMI	268½	+ 19½	+ 7.8
Celltech	392½	+ 28½	+ 7.8
Arjo Wiggins	117½	+ 8½	+ 7.7
First Leisure	202	+ 14	+ 7.4

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Unidare	100	− 60	− 37.5
James R Knowles	44	− 21	− 32.3
Caird Gp	193	− 14½	− 6.9
Orange	889½	− 45	− 4.8
Indpt Energy	702½	− 35	− 4.7
Commerzbk	1781¼	− 78⅛	− 4.2
Misys	635	− 26½	− 4.0
NXT	335	− 13½	− 3.8
COLT Telecom	1290½	− 51	− 3.8
Reuters	916	− 36	− 3.7
AEA Tech	717½	− 27½	− 3.6
Yorkshire	469	− 17	− 3.4
Smithkline	819½	− 28½	− 3.3
Irish Life	567	− 19½	− 3.3
Diageo	680	− 23	− 3.2

TEMPUS

Tuning into a good deal

YOU don't have to be a rocket scientist to work out that Scottish Media Group, the newspaper publisher and television broadcaster, may soon attract a takeover bid. Scottish is a tasty morsel. It is well managed; its STV and Grampian franchises deliver most of Scotland to television advertisers; and with *The Herald*, plus the launch this Sunday of the *Sunday Herald*, it has the leading regional newspaper titles on the Scottish west coast.

But what makes SMG particularly interesting now is that two chunky shareholdings may soon be prised loose of their current ownership. Nobody quite remembers now why the late Roger Luard, the former chief executive of Flextech, bought his 18.6 per cent of SMG. But with the stake now worth about £100 million, a sale would facilitate the launch of an awful lot of cable and satellite channels, Flextech's business. Mirror Group's similar-sized holding in SMG might also come on the market. A new owner at the Mirror may be obliged to sell after the inevitable MMC change of ownership investigation. And if Mirror continues independently, the proceeds of a sale would bring welcome relief to current balance sheet pressures.

So much for the theory. But who is going to do the deed? The obvious candidiate is United News & Media, which with SMG would consolidate its position at number three in ITV. Staff swear, however, that Lord Hollick's priorities lie elsewhere. Carlton and Granada may be giving SMG the once-over too.

In any event SMG's combination of commercial television and strong regional newspapers in a rampant and resurgent Scotland will prove irresistible to someone. Buy the shares.

ARM Holdings

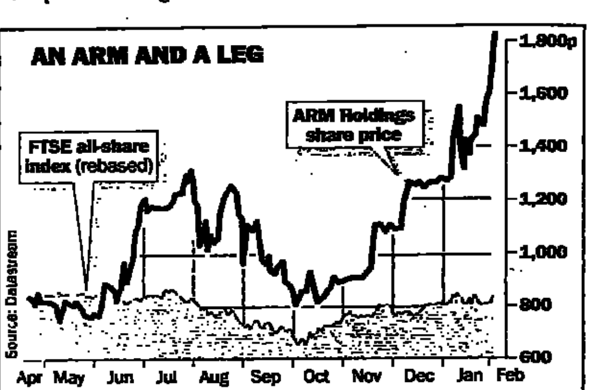
IF PROFITS at ARM Holdings stay static at the 1998 level it will take until the year 2145 for investors to receive the capital value of one share back in earnings per share. The shares trade on a p/e of 146 times' earnings, in other words.

Of course, earnings will not stop still, and such is ARM's strength there is every chance profits will grow at a healthy rate for most of the foreseeable future. But even if profits grow at 50 per cent a year it will take about 12 years for shareholders to retrieve their capital outlay if they bought at yesterday's £18.25 closing price.

Perhaps ARM, now worth nigh on £900 million, is being mistaken for an Internet stock. Multiples of 100-plus are commonplace for that new breed, in the US at least. In fact ARM designs microprocessors for mobile phones and electronic organisers. It licenses the technology to semi-conductor manufacturers.

Robin Saxby, ARM chief executive, reckons the slowdown among semi-conductor manufacturers actually helped his firm because it made manufacturers pursue new product ranges, and use his firm's expertise more. There was some heavy trading in the shares yesterday with one trade — thought to be a sale — going through for two million shares or about £35 million of stock. It looks like profit-taking and despite the quality of this company it is difficult to argue with the investment logic of the move.

Follow suit.



Weir Group

WEIR GROUP has stressed its expansion ambitions lately but the noises have done nothing to dilute its reputation as a takeover target. The price/earnings multiples being commanded across the engineering sector have helped. If decent companies trade on single-figure multiples no one can be surprised that bidders begin to circle. The BAe/GEC/LucasVarity excitement only fuels speculative activity.

Weir's pump-making business is clearly attractive to a string of potential overseas suitors. If Weir makes 23p of earnings this year a takeover bid pitched at a modest 14 times' earnings will still come in at 325p.

This is a long way from the 232p at which the stock was trading before the company confirmed yesterday that it had received an approach and still significantly above its closing price of 294.5p. If an auction breaks out, and given the worldwide consolidation currently happening in the engineering sector that is quite possible, then a final offer of between 350p and 400p is on the cards.

Long-suffering Weir shareholders who have sat and watched the value of their shares dwindle as the engineering sector fell and then stayed out of favour can look forward to getting a result. Those looking for a punt on a possible takeover play should buy.

Crest Nicholson

MORE evidence yesterday that last year's confident reports of the housebuilding sector demise were exaggerated.

Reporting annual results yesterday Crest Nicholson could scarcely have been more upbeat. All the figures are moving in the right direction and with taxable profits showing a 37 per cent rise it has not just been a case of scraping through. These are strong numbers. Particularly impressive was that Crest increased the operating profit margin on residential house sales — its main business — from 11.4 to 12 per cent during a period which was meant to be characterised by weakening housing market conditions.

Last summer it may have appeared foolhardy for Crest to be increasing the size of its land bank as aggressively as it did. But, as the environment proves itself to be much less terrifying than was widely thought, the investment looks increasing canny.

The danger with Crest is that something nasty will come out of the large but barely profitable construction side. At 49 per cent, gearing is high-ish too. But interest rates are falling and demand for new houses is forecast to be strong well into the millennium. Crest shares, trading at seven times' earnings, look good value. Buy.

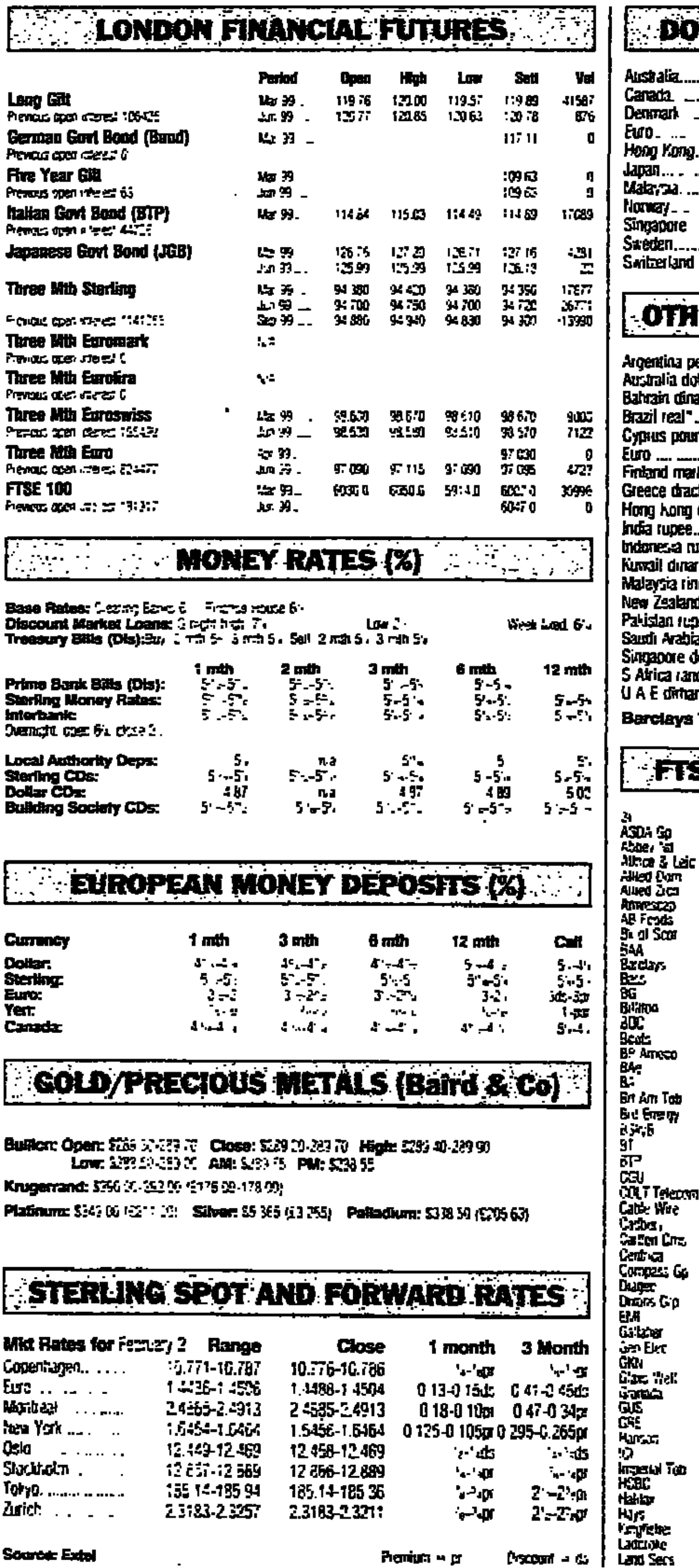
EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

[illegible]	[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]	[illegible]



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 99	119.76	120.00	119.57	119.89	41587
Previous open interest: 106425	Jun 99	120.77	120.85	120.63	120.78	876
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				117.11	0
Previous open interest: 0						
Five Year Gilt	Mar 99				109.63	0
Previous open interest: 65	Jun 99				109.65	9
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 99	114.64	115.03	114.49	114.69	17089
Previous open interest: [illegible]						
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 99	126.75	127.20	126.71	127.16	4291
	Jun 99	125.99	125.99	125.99	126.13	[illegible]
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.380	94.420	94.360	94.390	17877
	Jun 99	94.700	94.750	94.700	94.720	26771
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Sep 99	94.880	94.940	94.830	94.900	13990
Three Mth Euromark	N/A					
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Eurolira	N/A					
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.630	98.670	98.610	98.670	9003
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 99	98.530	98.580	98.510	98.570	7122
Three Mth Euro	Apr 99				97.030	0
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 99	97.090	97.115	97.090	97.095	4727
FTSE 100	Mar 99	6030.0	6050.0	5914.0	6027.0	30996
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 99				6047.0	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance House 6½
Discount Market Loans: O'night high 7½ Low 2½ Week fixed 6¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5[illegible] 3 mth 5[illegible] Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible] 3 mth 5[illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6¼ close 2[illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	5[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	5	5[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.87	n/a	4.97	4.89	5.02
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $[illegible] **Close:** $289.20-289.70 **High:** $289.40-289.90 **Low:** $[illegible] **AM:** $[illegible] **PM:** $288.55

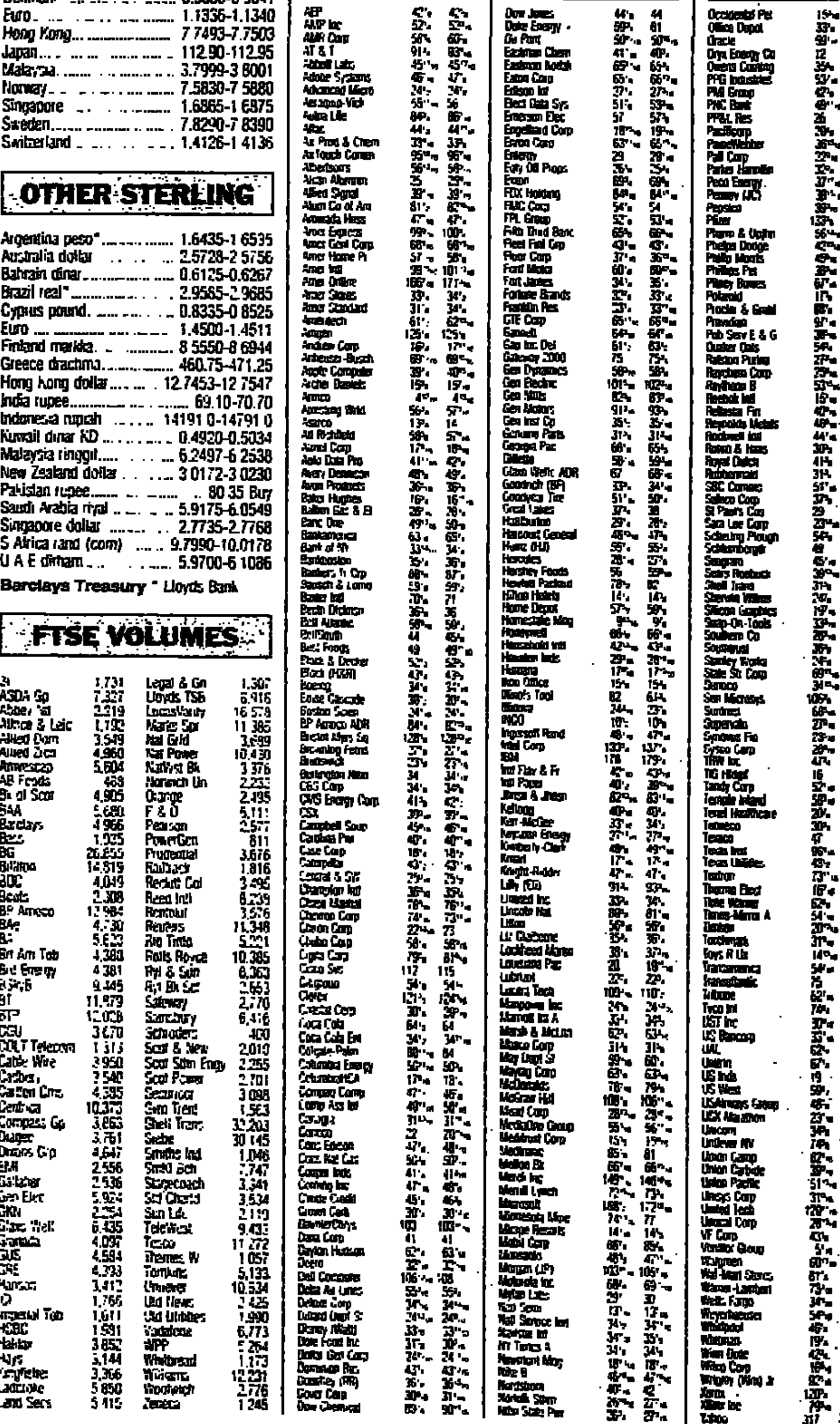
Krugerrand: $[illegible] (£176.00-178.00)

Platinum: $[illegible] **Silver:** $5.365 (£3.255) **Palladium:** $338.50 (£205.63)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for February 2	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.771-10.787	10.776-10.786	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.4436-1.4506	1.4488-1.4504	0.13-0.15ds	0.41-0.45ds
Montreal	2.4465-2.4913	2.4585-2.4913	0.18-0.10pr	0.47-0.34pr
New York	1.6454-1.6464	1.6456-1.6464	0.125-0.105pr	0.295-0.265pr
Oslo	12.449-12.469	12.458-12.469	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.857-12.569	12.866-12.889	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	185.14-185.94	185.14-185.36	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3183-2.3257	2.3183-2.3211	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5637-1.5661
Canada	1.5110-1.5120
Denmark	6.5636-6.5641
Euro	1.1336-1.1340
Hong Kong	7.7493-7.7503
Japan	112.90-112.95
Malaysia	3.7999-3.8001
Norway	7.5830-7.5880
Singapore	1.6865-1.6975
Sweden	7.8290-7.8390
Switzerland	1.4126-1.4136

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6435-1.6535
Australia dollar	2.5728-2.5756
Bahrain dinar	0.6125-0.6267
Brazil real*	2.9565-2.9685
Cyprus pound	0.8335-0.8525
Euro	1.4500-1.4511
Finland markka	8.5550-8.6944
Greece drachma	460.75-471.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.7453-12.7547
India rupee	69.10-70.70
Indonesia rupiah	14191.0-14791.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4920-0.5034
Malaysia ringgit	6.2497-6.2538
New Zealand dollar	3.0172-3.0230
Pakistan rupee	80.35 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9175-6.0549
Singapore dollar	2.7735-2.7768
S Africa rand (com)	9.7990-10.0178
U A E dirham	5.9700-6.1086

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,731	Legal & Gn	1,307
ASDA Gp	7,327	Lloyds TSB	6,916
Abbey Nat	2,219	LucasVarity	16,579
Alliance & Leic	1,792	Marks Spr	11,385
Allied Dom	3,549	Nat Grid	3,699
Allied Zurich	4,960	Nat Power	10,430
Amvescap	5,604	NatWst Bk	3,376
AB Foods	469	Norwich Un	2,253
Bk of Scot	4,905	Orange	2,495
BAA	5,690	P & O	5,111
Barclays	4,966	Pearson	2,577
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

WALL STREET

	Feb 2 midday	Feb 1 close
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Cleric's bomb shatters Davos fantasy

The World Economic Forum, described by one participant as a "dialogue between the haves and the haves", has been dominated by an attempt to analyse the implications of globalisation (or globality, the horrible word most often heard in Davos this year).

The air in this Swiss resort may be bracingly clear but the collective thinking of the world's leading CEOs is alarmingly limited. A faint air of unease hung vaporously over the meeting. Brazil and Russia were demons sometimes invoked, finance ministers urged each other to co-operate in bolstering world growth, everyone had a suggestion about how to improve the world financial architecture and Alan Greenspan and Bill Gates expressed concern about the stratospheric values accorded to Internet stocks.

Amid all this meaty stuff, however, CEOs were fixated on just one thing. Why weren't they Yahoo! or Amazon.com? Why couldn't they make that kind of money that quickly? How could they grab a slice of the action in Silicon Valley's gold rush? To these corporate brains, globalisation appears to mean whatever get-rich-quick scheme is hitting the headlines: getting online and tapping into global consumer markets; cutting sales and marketing costs to virtually zero; making piles of money.

Those men (invariably) who reach the top of large corporations — by definition one supposes — are really interested only in money. They do not thrill to long-range strategy, complex changes in business trends and certainly not to the social responsibility that comes with economic power.

On Sunday, Ted Turner, of CNN and Time Warner, did a rambunctious turn as head of the UN Foundation, urging his fellow millionaires to dip into their pockets for world peace, the environment and the poor. A few consciences may have been pricked momentarily but, despite the forum's theme this year of "Responsible Globality: Managing the Impact of Globalisation", this speech paid thin lip service to unselfish thoughts.

Readers may now be thinking that CEOs have no business having consciences and should simply get on with what they do best. However, in a world in which the state is shrinking and corporations are going global as nations cannot, executives have to take on some of the responsibilities traditionally the preserve of politicians if the forum's stated aim of "Improving The State Of The World" is to be addressed.

For all its boasting about being an intellectual, strategic, outward-looking hothouse of ideas for 2,000 executives powerful enough to put them into action, Davos is a peculiarly empty experience. Unemployment, the single most potent symbol of economic and social failure, hardly merited a mention. The social implosion in Asian countries such as Indonesia, whose Chinese population has experienced the most horrendous victimisation and violence, simply didn't register in the mainstream of the meeting.



Plans for a small protest against globalisation by a group of some 150 activists who are based in Geneva, a horrible potential embarrassment to the assembled millionaires, was snuffed out before it began. The Swiss police thoughtfully slipped small notes under the doors of small cafés and skiwear shops along the main shopping street in Davos, warning them of the possibility of tear gas on Saturday afternoon.

The ostrich tendencies of this annual gathering have something to do with the boyishly competitive egos that create successful CEOs. It's all about winners and losers. Last year, Davos was America's glory year. The Goldilocks economy was still romping ahead despite chaos in emerging markets. Asia was beyond the pale. Pre-euro Europe had sluggish growth, mass unemployment, rigid markets, old-fashioned ideas, a lack of entrepreneurial dynamism. This year, the conference chatter had it, is the year of Europe. The Continent still has sluggish growth, mass unemployment and rigid markets but it has the euro. Suddenly, Europe is deemed a roaring success.

In a meeting discussing prospects for Europe, the panellists expressed blanket optimism. Then, during the period for questions (invariably short in Davos), Fields Wicker-Miurin, a management consultant, one of the forum's annointed "Global Leaders for Tomorrow" and one of the authors of a report called *Wake Up, Europe!*, stood up. She said that Europe had big problems, amounting to what her report described as "an ossified, sclerotic economic system". Peter Sutherland, the moderator of the session, and one of the best-known europhiles, told her that she was being a bit harsh.

It took an elderly, bearded cleric to chuck a bomb into the Davos fantasy world and, given that the forum must have known something of his views, it is to its credit that His Holiness Bartholomew I, The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, was invited to speak. His critique of globalisation was excoriating. Poverty and social exclusion, he said, "challenged the cheap language of global community".

Globality is, he said, a "graceless system that renders people surplus and abandons them if they cannot compete in the global economy". Globalisation, in the sense of travel, was the preserve of a tiny elite (many of them flown by helicopter into Davos). His statement made one want to stand up and roar with delight amid all the inane talk of globality, new paradigms and connectivity but it was an isolated moment of shocking realism.

One of the favourite topics in Davos, however, gives cause for hope. To the CEOs, the Internet is a potential commercial goldmine, turning people around the world into even more voracious consumers. What they don't see is the Internet's power to democratise and empower. It will increasingly connect and inform even those relatively cut off from the rest of the world in developing countries, and information, as the CEOs tell us, is power.

Amartya Sen, last year's Nobel laureate for economics, was one voice who recognised its potential power for good. No famine, he said, had ever happened in a democracy with a free press, simply because the people had shamed governments into preventing such human catastrophes.

Battle joined for the best of British talent

The Entrepreneur of the Year award aims to pit successful risk-takers against world competitors, writes **Jason Nissé**

Would-be tycoons might do well not to pay too much attention to Simon Woodruffe. The founder of the Yo!Sushi chain of restaurants may be a sparkling example of an entrepreneur, having started his business for the living room of his flat, but at yesterday's launch of the Entrepreneur of the Year at the Yo!Sushi branch in Soho, he hinted that all entrepreneurs were slightly crazy.

"It needs a certain amount of self-denial to start your own business. If you had all the facts, you would not do it," Mr Woodruffe said.

Crazy or not, the UK probably produces more entrepreneurs per head of population than any other country. From Richard Arkwright to Richard Branson, British entrepreneurs have created businesses and ideas that have dominated and changed the business world. Yet the British culture of sneering at success means that often the achievement of people who are willing to take the sort of risks that most of the population would shy away from, goes unrecognised. In an attempt to change that, the Entrepreneur of the Year award is being launched.

The award is part of an international competition which was started by Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, in America 13 years ago. It now runs in 20 countries across five continents. The British element of this competition, being launched this year, is being co-sponsored by *The Times* and Citibank Private Bank as well as being supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors.

Announcing the award yesterday, David Wilkinson, E&Y's national head of entrepreneurial services, said: "The Entrepreneur of the Year awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding individuals who head growing, dynamic businesses and recognise the significant contribution they make to the economy. These awards will help bring entrepreneurs to the forefront, giving them the status and recognition they deserve."

At yesterday's launch, Michael Wills, the minister for small firms at the DTI, said that entrepreneurs were the lifeblood of the British economy. He said that the DTI wanted to support a programme celebrating people who "take those risks that are needed to build successful enterprises" and that is why the issue of promoting enterprise was a central theme of the Competitiveness White Paper issued last December.

GILL ALLEN



Pursuit of excellence: from left, David Wilkinson, Michael Wills and Simon Woodruffe, at the launch of the award yesterday

Mr Wills added that it was important to foster entrepreneurial zeal among the young. "Why should our children not aspire to be the next James Dyson, Anita Roddick or Simon Woodruffe as much as they aspire to be the next Michael Owen or Shaznay Lewis?" Mr Wills said.

These comments will no doubt ring true with many entrepreneurs. E&Y asked MORI, the research agency, to survey 800 entrepreneurs and found that 83 per cent of them thought their contribution to society is not recognised and 69 per cent of them wanted a society that "celebrates business heroes".

Only three out of ten thought that the current business climate favoured entrepreneurship. The survey also found that entrepreneurs were more positive about the economy than other business leaders — only 37 per cent of them think economic prospects are gloomy compared with 89 per cent of captains of industry, questioned in a recent MORI poll.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR®

Simon Woodruffe admitted that he could not claim to be young — he is 44 — but he said that his aim was to create a worldwide brand with Yo!, though it boasts just four restaurants and a delivery service at the moment. "I hope one day that the Yo! brand will be to the dance generation what Virgin was to my generation — the baby boomers," Mr Woodruffe said. He said that successful entrepreneurs are often people who are not afraid of failure.

However, for those not afraid to enter, the Entrepreneur of the Year competition works like this. Entrepreneurs can either nominate themselves or be nominated. A full application form can be obtained either by sending off the short form on this page, calling either the Ernst & Young hotline on 0845 604 1012 or other of its regional hotlines 0845 601 1013/4/5/6/7. All applications have to be in by April 30.

The nominations will then go to five regional heats — Scotland, North, Central, South and London — where they will be judged by a panel of prominent members of the local business community. They will visit the businesses of the nominees to get a feeling for what they are achieving — this is not an award based on just statistics and past performance.

The regional heats will deliver a series of winners. There will be a number of sub-categories of award winners. These are likely to include a Master Entrepreneur, for people who have made a sustained contribution over five years; Emerging Entrepreneur, for those whose business is less than five years old; Turnaround Entrepreneur, for individuals responsible for turning around the financial or market performances of their business; Young Entrepreneur, for people under 35; and Supporter of Entrepreneurship, for individuals who have made an outstanding contribution toward fostering entrepreneurship in others.

In addition, there will also be sector winners. These will be chosen by the judges as they see what patterns emerge from the nominations. The running of the award in other countries indicates that the industries are likely to include technology, communications and entertainment, consumer products, industrial products and business services. The regional awards will be announced in June at a series of regional banquets, and the winners will then go on to the national competition.

The regional award winners will be invited to a series of receptions with the national judges. They will decide the winners in each of the categories and the overall winner, which will be announced on September 27.

The winners will then be invited to an International Entrepreneur of the Awards Conference, which will take place in Palm Springs, California in November. The British winners have every chance of picking up international awards at that conference.

LINKS

WEBSITE: http://www.eoy.co.uk

Late billing



THE Corporation of London has rejected my suggestion yesterday that the Bill to reform the electoral franchise could fail. Guildhall insists that the reforms, which would give the vote to City businesses but reduce the influence of those living in the Square Mile, can still become law even after, as I predicted, they were opposed by three Labour MPs at the second hearing yesterday.

As the City branch of the Labour Party believes the Bill will now fail, I ring the Private Bill office at Westminster. In summary, the Bill, despite yesterday's oppposition, can still go through to be debated by the House of Commons, probably some time in March.

But it then faces further hurdles, most notably a majority vote of at least 100 MPs at 10 o'clock one night, a time when honourable members tend to be thin on the ground. As it is a private Bill, the whips cannot be used.

So the Corporation has to lobby hard to ensure the necessary majority. "All of this is very much on our minds," my man says. "We're aiming to ensure there are going to be 100 MPs there."



"What! We've been fined? I didn't look too closely at the details"

A SPLENDID leader in the Financial Times *yesterday. So splendid, indeed, that they ran it twice on the same page. I agonised over mentioning it — bad luck, you know. But it was about rationalisation in the banking sector...*

Sharing

A SPLENDID leader ... I'm sorry, I don't know how that got there. Um. FEARS are growing for David Montgomery's £1.35 million cash pile from the Mirror Group after a former colleague recalls an early foray by Monty into investment. On joining *Today* ten years ago, he instituted a portfolio of shares so readers could benefit from his skills.

Monty even put in £5,000 of his own money to start the fund off. A selection of stocks were bought, and the progress of the fund closely tracked. Coverage ended, for some reason, four months later — by which time the value of the portfolio had dipped below £3,000.

Double bed

BY COINCIDENCE, the very day last week that I wrote about Eurotunnel's ridiculous tariffs a reader was trying to book a room through Stakis Hotels.

He was offered a double room at a special price of £39 per person. When he asked for a single, the price quoted was £99. So he offered to pay full price for a double and keep the £21 change. No, said the clerk, and they reserved the right at any time to check that the room was occupied by two people and if it was not, charge the higher price.

Needless to say, Stakis says this was all a terrible mistake. But our reader had a suggestion. Could he book a double and use the money saved to hire some local working girl to make up the numbers? It is contrary to normal hotel policy on such trade, admittedly, but it seemed a reasonable compromise.

He says the clerk didn't seem to find this terribly funny.

NAMES, names. Norske Skog, a Norwegian paper company with interests in France and Austria, is merging with Hansol Paper of South Korea and Canada's Abitibi Consolidated. The three will re-emerge as Pan Asia Paper, which doesn't make much geographical sense until you consider the alternative. Try saying, I'm the man from Skog Hansol Abitibi with a straight face.

Relapse

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the former Paymaster General and once in charge of the Private Finance Initiative, has stepped into a controversy over a PFI project in his Coventry constituency. Robinson probably thought he had heard the last of the dread initials, but he is objecting to plans for a new hospital on the outskirts.

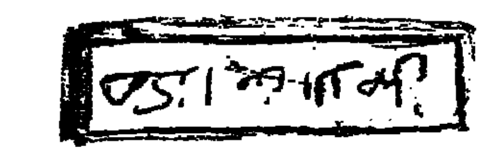
Instead he prefers an existing city centre site, on the grounds that it would be more convenient for his constituents.

Robinson has even gone to Tarmac, which has a dedicated PFI unit, for a study confirming the viability of the city centre site. "We said in principle it would seem to be viable but it's not necessarily a preferred option," the company tells me. It hardly seems the most ringing of recommendations.

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Robinson: turned to Tarmac for support in his bid to keep city centre hospital



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	143.40	152.31	- 0.15	
-do- Mat to Jun 19	140.39	140.39		
UK Equity Safeguard	115.09	123.10	0.48	2.02
-do- MAT to Mar 15	110.98	110.98		
US Eq Safeguard	96.50	102.17	- 0.48	
Cash	952.77	955.52		6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	426.34	453.60	- 2.40	1.80
UK Small Cos	85.74	91.70	- 0.39	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	104.86	112.15	+ 1.74	1.92
Geared UK Index	#23.334	#24.632	- 0.45	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.56	91.44	- 0.17	6.06
Monthly Inc	43.99	47.05	- 0.18	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	376.63	397.35	- 3.16	0.17
American Sml	187.74	198.69	- 0.38	
Jp US Index	#29.413	#30.989	0.50	4.50
European Gen	445.36	471.30	8.13	
European Strat	219.03	232.24	- 4.26	
Japan Gen	109.25	115.26	- 1.54	
Asia Pacific	61.19	65.65	- 0.49	1.09
Pacific Strat	85.99	91.64	- 0.52	
Greater China	145.13	155.19	- 0.53	
Latin America	54.73	58.50	- 2.81	
Int Growth	190.17	210.01	- 1.65	0.11
Balanced Strategy	181.51	189.00		2.18
Global Strategy	41.99	50.25	+ 0.07	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst				
Balanced Acc	83.31	88.65	- 0.23	1.71
Balanced Inc	74.87	79.65	- 0.20	1.71
Brit Ernst	132.70	141.20		2.25
Brit Friends Acc	166.50	177.10	- 1.90	4.02
Brit Friends Inc	103.20	109.90	- 1.10	4.02
Europe	578.10	615.00	11.30	0.29
General Acc	956.70	1028.00	- 100.00	2.48
General Inc	773.70	823.10	- 0.50	2.48
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	272.90	290.10	- 1.20	5.05
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	108.70	114.70	- 0.50	5.05
Global Gwth	137.50	146.30	- 0.70	0.76
Higher Inc Acc #	1230.00	1298.00		4.30
Higher Inc Inc #	605.50	647.00	- 0.30	4.30
Japan Acc	35.79	38.07	- 0.68	
Nth America	547.50	582.40	- 5.50	
Par Basin Acc	268.70	285.30	- 7.70	0.81
UK Growth Acc	660.60	702.90	- 6.80	2.12
UK Growth Inc	409.30	435.40	4.10	2.12
AXA Sun Life Trusts				
Discretionary	67.54	71.65	- 0.84	
Extra Inc Inc #	42.59	45.00	- 0.02	5.56
High Yld Inc	121.10	125.80	- 0.10	2.53
Inc & Gth Inc	119.60	126.90	- 0.10	2.21
Pacific Gth Port	32.81	34.90	- 0.35	0.78
UK Income Inc	84.21	88.63	+ 0.14	2.18
UK Smaller Cos	42.18	44.87	- 0.36	2.01
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	152.99	172.80	- 0.80	5.15
High Inc Equity	239.60	255.60	- 0.40	3.80
Worldwide Bond	291.00	308.60	- 2.70	3.73
American Growth	686.20	732.40	- 2.90	0.19
Asian Pacific	193.60	207.10	- 2.80	0.60
Assets & Earnings	366.10	391.60	- 1.90	1.91
Euro Capital Acc	309.60	330.10	- 6.05	0.22
Extra Inc	40.74	43.34	- 0.24	8.54
General	331.70	352.90	- 1.80	2.81
Global Opps	82.60	87.97	- 0.86	0.35
Japan	84.69	90.54	- 1.31	
Managed Inc	56.71	60.33	- 0.29	4.23
Investment	203.50	217.60	- 0.30	1.34
US Emerging Cos	276.80	296.30	- 0.90	
Ethical	90.68	96.47	+ 0.03	1.88
International	167.40	179.00	- 1.70	
Income & Growth	88.20	93.83	- 0.33	3.20

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	316.60	335.60		0.99
-do- Income Dist	170.20	180.30		2.74
-do- Accum	585.80	620.90		2.74
Gilt & Fxd Int	50.02	52.55		3.70
Growth Units	379.60	405.10		1.15
Bond	212.10	223.40		4.40
Int Growth	281.90	299.40		6.11
North American	424.50	450.60		
Far East	173.90	186.00		0.95
UK Smaller Cos	260.10	278.20		1.72
European	147.40	156.60		0.13
Japanese Growth	29.16	30.89		
High Income	298.50	319.00		2.76
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7432 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7466				
American & Gen	374.60	396.30	- 1.00	
European Inc	157.60	167.40	- 2.50	
Smaller Cos (4-1)	107.30	114.20	- 1.20	2.17
Growth	753.60	802.00	- 1.10	1.14
Income & Growth #	588.70	626.30	- 1.00	4.40
-do- Accum #	957.50	1018.70	- 1.80	4.40
Japan & Gen	52.57	56.57	+ 0.50	
Hallmark Cath	1761.00	1835.00	- 12.00	0.83
-do- Accum	2241.00	2335.00	- 16.00	0.83
Special Sits	173.30	184.40	- 0.20	1.12
High Yield	1899.00	1958.00	- 3.00	3.82
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
European Portfolio	126.51	134.42	- 0.51	1.99
American Portfolio	203.06	214.91	- 2.31	0.22
European Portfolio	227.73	242.62	- 2.99	0.22
High Income	59.97	63.36	- 0.24	5.71
Japanese Portfolio	48.42	51.31	+ 0.46	
Pacific Portfolio	103.59	111.39	- 0.56	1.74
UK Equity	125.00	133.22	0.50	1.62
UK Equity & Bd	72.84	77.24	- 0.15	5.14
UK Smlr Cos	49.61	53.06	+ 0.31	2.29
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1043.08	1058.84		3.29
Inv Fd Acc	1115.74	1132.80		
Fxd Int Sec Inc	181.67	182.14		7.03
Fxd Int Sec Acc	209.19	210.03		
CGU TRUST MGRS LTD				
Brkr/Dlng 0845 6072438 Cust Enq 0845 6072439				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	245.59	256.85	- 0.26	4.25
Long Gilt	61.86	64.39	- 0.56	4.15
Monthly Inc Plus	64.97	67.68	- 0.07	6.62
-do- Accum	83.94	87.45	- 0.10	6.62
Preference Share	64.28	66.97	- 0.08	5.92
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	183.37	191.00	- 0.08	5.30
Managed Fund	99.92	104.09	- 0.45	2.37
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	45.64	47.55	+ 0.43	1.33
-do- Accum	56.04	57.24	- 0.51	1.33
UK & General	137.43	143.17	- 0.47	1.95
-do- Accum	187.16	194.98	- 0.63	1.95
UK Growth	276.34	287.88	- 0.98	1.72
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	388.58	404.81	- 7.95	
Far Eastern Grth	93.07	96.96		0.34
Global Bond	77.68	80.92	- 0.31	4.74
Japan Growth	88.32	92.01	- 1.04	
North Amer Grth	411.56	428.75	- 1.76	
Oriental Growth	54.76	57.06	- 0.37	1.14
Worldwide Growth	99.41	103.56	- 0.49	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.99	92.99	+ 0.01	5.36
Homemaker Fund	113.61	120.87	- 0.69	1.90

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 558 8200				
Bridge Income #	414.63	441.76	- 0.15	4.50
Esk Growth	150.46	160.06	- 8.27	0.49
Inc & Growth	103.07	109.65	- 9.24	7.96
MSM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01993 284 831				
European Growth	174.78	185.93	- 2.48	0.39

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Dealing: 0870 6066408				
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01620 025867				
Balanced Fd #	1543.90	1566.10		2.90
Income #	1098.20	1107.60		3.50
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				

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Second-liners lead the way

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

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DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

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ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

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ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

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HEALTHCARE

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INSURANCE

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MINING

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OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

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MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

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UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

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PROPERTY

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RETAILERS, FOOD

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RETAILERS, GENERAL

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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TRANSPORT

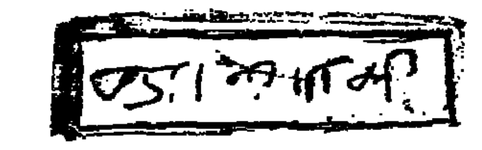
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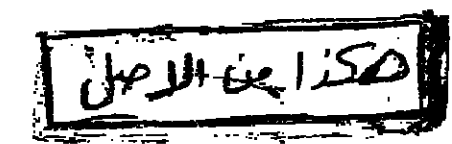
WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

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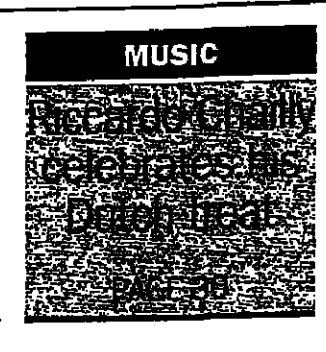


RADIO



THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC





Free steps to heaven

NEW YORK THEATRE: Bob Fosse shines on Broadway, Athol Fugard off it. **Edward Karam** reports

From the early 1950s to *Big Deal* in 1986, the director-choreographer Bob Fosse brought his distinctive style to the musical. Dancers in black, often flourishing bowler hats. Abdominal thrusts. Shoulder rolls. Fingers splayed. All that is now on view in **Fosse**, the scorchingly kinetic revue at the Broadhurst Theatre, but co-directors Ann Reinking, Chet Walker and Richard Maltby Jr have culled a great deal more as well.

One expects sex, of course. The clothes are typically tight and black, although Santo Loquasto's frocks for the taxi dancers in *Big Spender* are gaudy enough for Mardi Gras. From a nearly nude triple pas de deux from *All That Jazz* to the re-creation of *Mein Herr* from *Cabaret*, eroticism percolates. The latter is one of the few instances in which props (chairs) are used; another is the atypically comic *Shoeless Joe* from *Damn Yankees*, in which baseball players twirl bats as if they were batons.

But the most riveting moment in *Fosse* is the slowest, as Andy Blankenbuehler sings a mournful *Mr Bojangles* from *Dancin'*. A shabbily dressed Bojangles (Sergio Trujillo) shuffles poignantly in a spotlight while a younger spirit of himself (Desmond Richardson) leaps and whirls across the stage. It speaks volumes about age, memory and physical decay in a show that celebrates youth, strength and a prodigious talent.

> ‘Fosse celebrates youth, strength and talent’

For theatregoers who require dialogue, two playwrights are revisiting the early 1950s. At the Manhattan Theatre Club, Athol Fugard's **The Captain's Tiger** is a semi-autobiographical fantasia woven around his attempt to write his first novel at the age of 20, while on a tramp steamer sailing around the world.

One real and one imagined companion join Fugard on his 1952 voyage. Donkeyman, Tony Todd's wary, towering Swahili, tends the boiler and serves as Fugard's sounding board. Meanwhile Betty, Fugard's mother and the heroine of his novel, materialises to argue about the plot. As directed by Fugard and designer Susan Hilferty the play has few surprises: certainly not that Felicity Jones's light-footed, charming Betty takes on a life of her own or that the ship hits the Doldrums just as Fugard faces writer's block.

Although the presence of the playwright, now 66, adds resonance (he has announced it is his last appearance as a performer), *The Captain's Tiger* is of more intellectual than emotional interest.

Much more satisfying is A.R. Gurney's **Far East** at Lincoln Centre. It is 1954, and Michael Hayden's Lieutenant "Sparky" Watts, a smiling but self-conscious straight arrow, has just arrived at an American Navy base in Japan. Rebelling against his well-connected family, he has moved in with a Japanese girlfriend. His commander's wife (Lisa Emery), a family friend and former *Voice of America* broadcaster, is determined to draw him into the expatriate community.

Gurney's interest is more about breaking free of inhibitions than miscegenation, although Sparky intends to settle in multiracial Hawaii, "the America of the future". The struggles of his WASP characters to break their bonds lead to various betrayals. Bill Smitrovich's gruff captain has ties to an ex-girlfriend, while his wife Julia shares a repressed cha-cha with Sparky.

Director Daniel Sullivan has staged the play with a sense of sweet melancholy, aided by Dan Moses Schreier's original music and sound, such as the crack of hyoushigi clappers, borrowed from Kabuki, to punctuate scenes, and the use of period songs, particularly *You Belong to Me*, to evoke feelings of regret.

Abdominal thrusts. Shoulder rolls. Fingers splayed. All that is now on view in New York in the scorchingly kinetic revue celebrating the work of Bob Fosse

Wagner done proud

A production of Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung* by a company called the Mastersingers Ltd and supported by the Wagner Society sounds as if it should have a note of authority. The founders of the Mastersingers are Paul Crook and Malcolm Rivers, veterans of the 1970s ENO *Ring* under Reginald Goodall, and their project brings together what they describe as "other stalwarts from *Ring* cycles all over the world" with new young Wagner singers. So far, so good.

As Crook and Rivers have made abundantly plain, however, they hanker after antediluvian productions that call a spear a spear. The composer's detailed stage directions, wistfully recalled by Crook in his programme notes, are of limited use more than a century later anyway: on a shoestring budget, they are meaningless. A vacuous conception, coupled with an amateur orchestra, made for a dismal *Rheingold* last March.

OPERA

Die Walküre

For *Die Walküre*, in the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on Saturday night, however, they brought in a professional orchestra (an expanded Manchester Camerata, calling itself the Camerata Wagner Orchestra), put it under the direction of David Syrus who, as head of music at the Royal Opera House, has worked on *The Ring* for close on three decades, and engaged the astute Gary Kahn to semi-stage it. The result occupied an uncomfortable hinterland between concert performance and full staging, but if one could accept the premise, the rewards were considerable.

The big draw was that other great veteran of Goodall's *Ring*, Alberto Remedios. At the age of 63, his voice has inevitably lost a little of its bloom and flexibility, but none of its power, and it was a joy to hear again that ideal blend of heroic ring and lyrical allure. Another ENO stalwart, Neil Howlett, took the role of Wotan with magisterial timbre and commanding presence.

The Brünnhilde of Christine Teare — honeyed in tone, assured in style, and passionate in nature — is definitely one to watch. Tamsin Dives was impressive and moving as Sieglinde, while Rebecca de Pont Davies made a formidable Fricka. John Cunningham was a fine Hunding, and a strong team of Valkyries included a couple of the Wagner Society's Bayreuth Bursary winners.

Given the financial constraints on rehearsal time, Syrus performed miracles with the orchestra. Yes, there were fluffed entries, missing chords and poor balances, but there was some wonderful playing in between. Act I lacked coherence and drive, but the second and especially the third acts were consistently satisfying, occasionally electrifying. Kahn's staging, though vestigial, was intelligent.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Luke Clancy on the eclectic delights of Limerick's Unfringed Festival

Cherry-picked cream

When is a fringe not a fringe? When its shows have been carefully prised away from a mainstream festival and given a little space all of their own. That at least is the theory behind Limerick's Unfringed Festival, for which the city's Belltable Arts Centre swooped on the Dublin Fringe and carried off some of the best shows.

This year Unfringed threw its net a little wider, encouraging one of the Edinburgh Fringe's successes, Ursula Martinez, to overfly Dublin and make her Irish debut in Limerick. **A Family Outing** softpedals its title's pun, but the star still gets around to asking her parents what they think of her being a lesbian before deciding that the only way to get the right answer is to script her parents' responses.

A sort of new-millennium Joyce Grenfell, for whom clumsy charm is the result of tight preparation and an unerring comic sense, Martinez just can't help leaving her audience with big, nervous smiles. She toys with them, asking them to assess whether this is a scripted performance by two older hyper-naturalistic actors working in conjunction with a younger writer/director, or if the light-hearted bickering, halting reminiscences and "live satellite" link-up are just what they seem to be.

The result is a kind of live version of the kind of video and performance work that made Janine Antoni and Gillian Wearing famous, but with the theatrical context adding a level of intimacy, of involvement, which pushes the whole documentary notion in a highly productive direction.

As the title of Jim Cartwright's **I Licked a Slag's Deodorant** suggests, Glasgow's contribution to Unfringed does not share Martinez's interest in delicate nuance and fugitive meaning. This dark and darkly lit two-hander crawls around the kind of places in which Irvine Welsh has already relieved himself, and finds that life as a slightly disturbed hobo, or as a crack-addicted prostitute, is not very much fun.

Nik Wardzynski, as the hobo, is grimly funny, while Cora Bissett, as the hooker whose drug habit always takes precedence over her heart of gold, prowls the audience, offering every line like an invitation to a brawl.

Corn Exchange's **Carshow**, which was seen in Dublin outdoors in the comparatively tranquil setting of the pedestrianised Meetinghouse Square, transferred to Limerick's main street, where the cars that make up its set were quickly lost in the rows of other parked vehicles. In the show, four separate 15-minute plays are performed three times a night in four separate cars, to audiences of not more than three people per car. The result is an extraordinary dramatic style, in which the intense intimacy of the setting leads to a fresh and even unnerving theatrical experience.

Meanwhile, as Corn Exchange did its job while rooted to car seats, members of Kaos Theatre Company took things to the opposite extreme, writhing along the stage, rising up to clamber over the flats, and generally patrolling the theatre like a cageful of hyperactive chimpanzees.

The Kaos Master and Margarita is an intensely physical, frequently acrobatic version of Mikhail Bulgakov's novel, in which brains, biceps and powerful abdominal muscles are all pressed into the service of a story of love, black magic and literary infighting.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

CHARLES HUMPHRIES

Age: 29.

Profession: Counter-tenor.

Why the falsetto voice? Humphries fell into singing alto aged 13 at Hurstpierpoint College simply because there were no others in the choir. Meanwhile the early music movement was revving up and, finding himself immersed in Baroque music, Humphries started singing lessons in earnest with a counter-tenor lay clerk at King's College, Cambridge.

Teachers and mentors? Humphries worked with Charles Brett for eight years, and also with James Bowman and Michael Chance. From 1989 to 1993 he was on the performance course at the Royal Academy of Music.

First work: "All those Sunday mornings" — two years at Westminster Abbey as a contracted deputy, and singing at almost every major London church.

First break: With Paul McCreesh and the Gabrieli Consort in Handel's *Saul* at the Covent Garden Festival. "I had so little to sing, I was sitting in the auditorium trying desperately not to nod off!" But it led to roles in McCreesh's great Baroque extravaganzas, such as the reconstruction of Vespers in Venice, etc. Humphries also works with the King's Consort, the Monteverdi Choir and the English Concert.



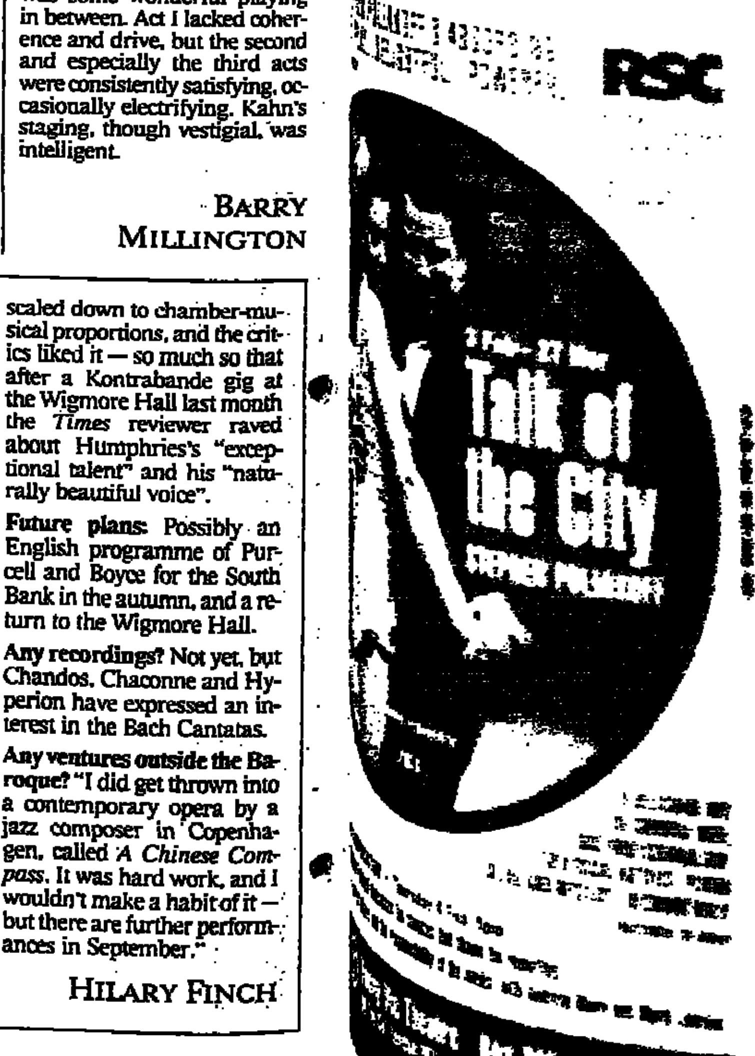
Not forgetting Kontrabande: This wittily named tiny ensemble was formed by Humphries in summer 1997 "to play repertoire *I* wanted to perform, and with just one instrument to a part". They started with Bach Cantatas, scaled down to chamber-musical proportions, and the critics liked it — so much so that after a Kontrabande gig at the Wigmore Hall last month the *Times* reviewer raved about Humphries's "exceptional talent" and his "naturally beautiful voice".

Future plans: Possibly an English programme of Purcell and Boyce for the South Bank in the autumn, and a return to the Wigmore Hall.

Any recordings? Not yet, but Chandos, Chaconne and Hyperion have expressed an interest in the Bach Cantatas.

Any ventures outside the Baroque? "I did get thrown into a contemporary opera by a jazz composer in Copenhagen, called *A Chinese Compass*. It was hard work, and I wouldn't make a habit of it — but there are further performances in September."

HILARY FINCH



Roger Wright, Radio 3's new Controller, tells **Richard Morrison** that he wants his network to open a window on to the wider arts and music world

Live and lively at the new Radio 3

Roger Wright doesn't look like a man prone to bouts of gloom. But if he does succumb he might take comfort from the words of his predecessor, Nicholas Kenyon: "Always remember, the great thing about being Controller of Radio 3 is that *you can't win*."

That's true. Depending on which epistle he plucks from his postbag, Wright will be told that his network is too elitist or too populist, too chatty or too stuffy, indigestibly highbrow or slithering dumbly into the gutter.

As for his BBC bosses, they may nod benignly now when he tells them that Radio 3 is all about quality, quality and quality, and not about such trivial matters as a ratings war with Classic FM. But a year down the line, when the audience gap between Radio 3 and its soaraway commercial competitor may have grown from an irritant into an embarrassment, will they still be supportive?

> ‘A live broadcast is so much more interesting than CDs’

I hope so, because Mr Wright is probably as close to being Mr Right for this impossible job as they will ever find. His musical credentials are impeccable — he is the first Radio 3 Controller ever to possess a music degree — and as a former BBC producer he knows the Corporation's funny little ways well enough.

But he has also spent time in the much tougher music business outside, working with the Cleveland Orchestra in America and then with Deutsche Grammophon. So when he returned to the BBC as head of classical music, and engaged the hard men of the Musicians Union in an epic negotiation to drag the working practices of BBC orchestras into the late 20th century, he had a secret weapon: he knew where all the small print was buried.

The result was an agreement that actually made it economically feasible for BBC TV producers to use the BBC's own orchestras. Revolutionary! "If the BBC had to jump through contractual hoops in order to put a camera in front of its own Symphony Orchestra, or if the natural history unit found it cheaper to go to Munich or Prague to record a soundtrack than to book the BBC Concert Orchestra, then clearly something was not quite right," says Wright, with wry understatement.

Indeed. Particularly as the Concert Orchestra, left with free time on its hands, could then use its subsidised advantages to outbid the independent London orchestras for commercial engagements — and, in Wright's words, "destabilise the external market".

Wright's deal not only convinced the BBC's governors to continue picking up the hefty tab for five house orchestras and a full-time professional chorus. It also probably tipped the scales in his favour when Radio 3's top job fell vacant last summer. Wright's main challenge came from an unashamed populist, the Decca record executive Roger Lewis, and the choice between them seemed to epitomise an ideological tussle within the BBC between quality and ratings, public-broadcasting obligations and global ambitions. Was that how Wright saw it?

"All I can say is that I stated a view about the sort of network I would feel comfortable running, and that I have not had to compromise on any of the things I said then. The fact that I got the job means, I suppose, that these were the things that the BBC top management wanted for Radio 3 too."

Bizarrely, this turned out to be only the first skirmish in the "Battle of the Rogers". For on the very day that Wright's appointment was announced, Lewis accepted the job of running Classic FM. So is it hand-to-hand combat now? Not according to Wright. Following the usual Radio 3 line, he won't admit that the two stations are even on the same battlefield.

His network is "not in the business of competing with Classic FM", he claims. "And I am certainly not looking over my shoulder and asking myself: 'If we were more like them, would we get their audience?' The first priority is to get our own music policy right, and the right balance of speech and music that will draw listeners into a world of ideas in an entertaining way. Once we have done that we can think about getting it to as many people as possible. If we do it the other way round we are on a downward spiral."

Yesterday he offered a glimpse of what those fine words mean in practice, unveiling a new look to the morning schedule that dumps such unlamented slots as *Artist of the Week* and *Sound Stories* to make space for a daily 90-minute transmission of live or specially recorded performance at 11.30am. "Yes, people might cough, there might be split notes, or the programme might overrun," he says. "But the message we have to get across is that live broadcasts are so much more interesting than simply playing CDs."

If Wright has a big idea for Radio 3, this is it. He perceives that for much of the time Classic FM does little except play CDs, and he wants Radio 3 to differentiate itself by relaying the most exciting events from the wider arts world. He promises far more broadcasts from Edinburgh, Cheltenham and the big European festivals this summer, and more BBC mini-festivals ("we must utilise the musical resources that only we have"), in addition to the immensely popular Proms.

Nor will the outside links only be musical. Wright is "doing deals with places like the Almeida" to bring the most talked-about London theatre productions to Radio 3.

"I really want to get the message across about drama," he says. "When I tell people that I run the network that broadcasts Hare's *Via Dolorosa*, Harriet Walter in *Hedda Gabler*, Peter Hall's *Major Barbara*, Shakespeare plays and the Troy trilogy, they usually say: 'Goodness, when is that festival coming on?' I reply: 'That was the past six weeks on Radio 3'. It's not so much the fact that people aren't listening that worries me; it's the realisation that they don't even know it's there."

He has already saved the useful magazine programme *Music Matters* from the chop. Elsewhere, he promises less banter and more music on the breakfast programme *On Air*, and yet another tinkering with the Saturday morning *CD Review*, revamped to general dismay last year.

"Hardly a day goes by when my postbag does not remind me of these issues," he says. Ah, the famous postbag! Its contradictory, bad-tempered contents may come to infuriate Wright, but they should thrill him as well. Radio 3's listeners may not be legion, but they care passionately about their station — and they will defend to their last breath the old-fashioned notion of a music network that repays serious listening. Good for them. In Wright they may have a kindred spirit and a doughty champion.

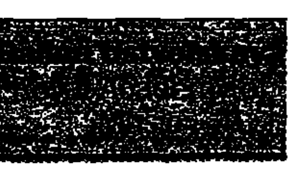
MARTIN MORRELL



Roger Wright in the foyer of Broadcasting House: "It is not so much the fact that people aren't listening that worries me; it is the realisation that they don't even know it is there"

Noisy world of faith

Shostakovich was besotted with her. "It is not I," he commented to his pupil, "who have influenced you, but you me." Schnittke and James MacMillan revere her. George Benjamin finds her music totally impossible. The reclusive, St Petersburg-enclosed composer Galina Ustvolskaya celebrates her 80th birthday this summer, and the Royal Academy of Music opened a rare door into her world and her mind in its enterprising festival of Russian music last week.



It was a noisy place to be. Imagine the four syllables of the words "Dies irae" constantly hammered and thwacked out at polarised pitches, their beat repeated, permutated, repeated again, sometimes on a monotone, sometimes within a cluster, sometimes in the melodic intervals of the unquiet spirit of a fragment of Russian chant. Imagine mallets colliding with bruising church bells in a world of fearful whisperings and relentless hammerings on the mind. Imagine a dysfunctional music born of a dysfunctional time, and deaf to all ears but its own. This is Galina Ustvolskaya.

The students of the RAM, conducted by John Carewe, presented the UK premiere of her Symphony No 2, *True and eternal bliss*. Its name reflects the claustrophobically religious theatre of Ustvolskaya's mind: this symphony, like the two which follow it, sets an apocalyptic text by the aptly named medieval German writer Hermannus Contractus. One of the Academy's instrumental students, Evgeny Chebykin, was on hand to recite it, cupping and opening his hands to call forth the repeated word "Ghospodi!" ("O, Lord!"), for all the world like a human ram's horn.

His plangent voice rang out over the piano's striding chords, the loud thwacks of the bass drum, a tuba whose single note was sustained through a searing crescendo, before a little dotted rhythm was squeezed out of the trumpet's muted mouth, and flutes and oboes led the still pounding syllables to a dying fall.

We also heard Ustvolskaya's 15-minute Third Symphony, *Jesu Messiah, Save Us!* for six oboes, five trumpets, one trombone, three tubas, three drums, piano, five double-basses and reciting voice. This was followed by the ten-minute Fifth Symphony, finished in 1990, and offering a more distilled "setting" of the Lord's Prayer. A similar instrumental line-up is joined here by the beating of a specially made plywood cube, already heard to tinnitus-inducing effect in the earlier *Composition 2. Amen.*

HILARY FINCH

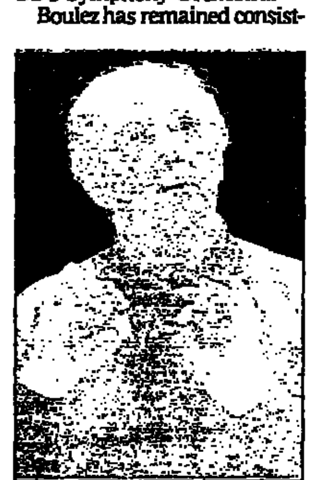
Theories of evolution

CONCERTS

BBCSO/Davis
Festival Hall

Even if we have to accept that our century will end before its music is truly appreciated, it is always good to see people resisting the inevitable. This all-Boulez programme drew a sizeable, enthusiastic Festival Hall audience, with the musicians relishing every note — well, a little tension showed on their faces during the opening work — and dispatching some of the most complex scores with apparent ease: in short, another remarkable concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Boulez has remained consistently true to himself, in his words "transforming those rules which have become nothing more nor less than the conventions of an established swindle", but he has mellowed over time and is now less likely to be found throwing musical hand grenades. As a living artist, he has created living pieces which constantly revisit themselves: all four scores in this first event of the BBC's *Boulez Portrait* were reworkings of earlier material.



A mellower Pierre Boulez reworking earlier material

None has evolved further than *Le visage nuptial*. For its lushness and approachability it is his equivalent of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*. In five movements, all settings of René Char's poetry, it calls for a gigantic orchestra, women's voices (the excellent BBC Singers), soprano and mezzo soloists: Andrew Davis wielded his forces impressively, especially in the big central movement that gives the work its title, capturing the broad flow and the palpitating detail. Christine Schäfer and Susan Parry were well-matched soloists. All were alive to the way poetry and music seemingly evaporate at the end.

As befits Boulez's old band — he was chief conductor during the 1970s — the BBCSO played all the music with instinctive understanding. *Eclat/Multiples* progressed from its opening piano cadenza, by turns angry and tender, towards increasingly exotic sounds: tuned percussion are ultimately joined by winds and no fewer than ten violas for the "multiple reflections" implied in the title. By the mesmerising end, these reflections are more like ripples broadening out in a great celebration of sound. But, like many celebrations, this one goes on a little too long.

Two shorter items completed the concert. *cummings ist der dichter* features music as fragmented as the poetry, but in spite of some surprises in the choral writing the work does not have the blazing individuality of Boulez's best scores. By contrast, *Notations I-IV* are a series of short but massively orchestrated soundscapes that, moving from a languid uncoiling of themes to explosive vigour, brought the evening to an arresting close.

JOHN ALLISON

■ LISTINGS

Poliakoff takes on the BBC

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

TALK OF THE CITY: Stephen Poliakoff's flawed yet fascinating play about BBC censorship in the 1930s. With David Westhead and a charismatic Angus Wright.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363). Previews from tonight, 7.15pm.

FRENCH CONNECTION: The London Sinfonietta commemorates the late Gérard Grisey in a concert featuring the world premiere of the French composer's last work, completed a few weeks before his untimely death last November. This is framed by Wolfgang Rihm's *Gedrängte Form* and Pierre Boulez's *Sur Incises*. George Benjamin conducts.
Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm.

FOURPLAY: Post-Modern bedroom farce by Spanish dramatist Sergi Belbel. Hans-Peter Kellner directs for Mammoth productions.
Lyric Studio (0181-741 8701/2311). Opens tonight, 8pm.



Håkan Hardenberger plays in Birmingham

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM. The virtuoso Swedish trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger joins the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Zimmermann's imaginative Trumpet Concerto. Symphonies by Mozart and Tchaikovsky complete the programme. Sakari Oramo conducts.
Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm

CREWE: In Jonathan Harvey's new play, **Hushabye Mountain**, dead Danny enjoys the company of Judy Garland in Heaven while his boyfriend on Earth copes with the hole in his life. Paul Miller directs a touring production.
Lyceum (01270 537333). Previews tonight, 7.30pm.

NOTTINGHAM: Mary Hegarty and Christopher Purves continue to excel at the head of Opera North's fine cast in Martin Duncan's production of Rossini's *The Thieving Magpie*. Superbly conducted by David Charles Abell. Revival director, Mark Tinkler.
Theatre Royal (0115 989-5555) Tonight and Friday, 7.15pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **THE FOREST:** Alan Ayckbourn adapts Ostrovsky's sardonic 1870 comedy, with Michael Feast's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt (Frances de la Tour).
Lyttelton (0171-452 3000).

◪ **LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS:** Ewan McGregor in the title role of a sentimentalised revival of David Halliwell's play about art-student failure and fascism.
Comedy (0171-369 1731).

◪ **OKLAHOMA!:** National Theatre cast includes Maureen Lipman in transfer of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein.
Lyceum (0171-416 6099).

◪ **RICHARD III:** Robert Lindsay puts on the hump for Elijah Moshinsky's RSC production from Stratford.
Savoy (0171-836 8888)

□ **MEASURE FOR MEASURE:** Stephen Boxer superb as Angelo, and Clare Holman pretty good as Isabella, in Michael Boyd's production of Shakespeare's most awkward play.
Barbican (0171-638 8891).

■ **THE STREET OF CROCODILES.** Return for Theatre de Complicite's inventive staging of Bruno Schulz's recollections of pre-Nazi Poland.
Queens (0171-494 5041).

□ **VASSA:** Sheila Hancock heads a terrific cast, playing the family matriarch in Gorky's strong drama. Howard Davies directs a new version for the Almeida season.
Albery (0171-369 1730).

□ **SPERM WARS:** David Lewis's excellent first play about the anxieties of reproduction returns for two weeks.
Orange Tree (0181-940 3633).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15). Ripping yarn about the struggling, upstart William Shakespeare. A cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse. John Madden directs.

STEPMOM (12): Squelchy divorce movie with Julia Roberts as the new woman in Ed Harris's life, and Susan Sarandon as the terminally ill ex-wife. The two spoiltkids, Jena Malone and Ian Aiken, give it a high Kleenex rating. Relentlessly sincere movie by Chris Columbus.

VERY BAD THINGS (18): Peter Berg's macabre comedy thriller satirises buddy movies and smug suburban lifestyles by chopping up half the cast. Demonic peformances from Christian Slater and Cameron Diaz.

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (15): Robert Downey Junior plays a charming creep who strings along Natasha Wagner and Heather Graham. James Toback's chamber piece on sexual fidelity promptly falls on its sword when both girls fail to crucify him after he's been exposed.

CURRENT

HILARY AND JACKIE (15): Anand Tucker's controversial biopic about the late Jacqueline du Pré with Emily Watson and Rachel Griffiths.

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12): Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman star as witches in a gothic soap about sisters with *fatal attraction*. Too sweet to digest. Griffen Dunne directs.

BULWORTH (18): Warren Beatty's disillusioned senator suddenly discovers a taste for telling ugly truths. A wonderful new comic spin on political manipulation and mendacity. Beatty produces, stars and directs.

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18): Christina Ricci plays a trashy 16-year-old who stitches up her gay step-brother by stealing his boyfriend and high-tailing it to LA. A blistering comedy on political correctness. Written and directed by Don Roos.

LITTLE VOICE (15): Mark Herman's wonderful version of Jim Cartwright's stage hit. Jane Horrocks sings glorious covers of torch song divas. Michael Caine, Ewan McGregor, Brenda Blethyn and Jim Broadbent sleaze around in the foreground.

ARTS

United notions

MUSIC: John Allison talks to the conductor Riccardo Chailly about his work in Amsterdam



Riccardo Chailly: "It was the Rembrandt of orchestras, and I've introduced some Van Gogh"

Music may have its Americans in Paris and, for all we know, an Italian girl or two in Algiers, but until ten years ago the idea of an Italian in Amsterdam might have sounded surprising. Enter Riccardo Chailly who, with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, has spent the past decade building one of the most successful and celebrated musical partnerships anywhere: in spite of this fiery conductor's early difficulties with a conservative audience and a great orchestra steeped in tradition, the synthesis now could not be more natural.

Not surprisingly, everyone wants to hear them. Tomorrow, en route to America, they stop off at the Festival Hall for the second concert of their recently established South Bank residency, which offers lucky Londoners the chance to hear them three times a season. The programme — Brahms's Second Symphony, his Violin Concerto with Vadim Repin, and Schoenberg's Five Orchestral Pieces — is a typically solid Concertgebouw affair. "I want the residency to be a reflection of our daily life," says Chailly. "That means a lot of the great Romantic composers, but in the future I hope to challenge audiences more, perhaps with Messiaen or Varèse."

Challenging perceptions of music is what Chailly is all about, though the gentle-mannered 45-year-old is not a confrontational figure. Patient persuasion is his way. Though he travels a lot as guest conductor, and enjoys close ties with the Chicago, Philadelphia and London Symphony Orchestras, he has a hands-on approach to his post in Amsterdam. He and his wife have made a home there and learnt to speak Dutch. "It may be an old-fashioned view, but I believe the job of chief conductor is a full-time commitment. But you have to make strategic choices, because there is the danger of saturating an institution with your presence."

Has the Concertgebouw's history been an inspiration or a deadweight? "Well, it can be both, but it would be wrong to ignore it. The chief conductor of this orchestra should never ignore the German Romantic side or the *St Matthew Passion* tradition here. So I've remained aware of the past while going my own way. Now we've got a very settled feeling.

"Recently, to mark my tenth anniversary here and the orchestra's 110th birthday, a newspaper printed what the Dutch like and I personally hate — an 'evaluation'. It means you all go back to school to be told this was good, this was bad, this was medium — what a bore! I don't like these things, not because I'm afraid of the past, but because I've always looked forwards."

Such an outlook helped him over the shock of his Concertgebouw debut, when he conducted a programme of contemporary Italian composers. "The hall was almost empty, and I hadn't been warned. I was furious at the waste, ashamed for the city when they had a dream orchestra playing modern music. But I realised that bridges would have to be built, doors opened. The Concertgebouw was regarded as the Rembrandt of orchestras, and now I've introduced some Van Gogh."

Mondrian, too, he might have added. His projects have included the promotion of modern Dutch music, and the recording for Decca of the complete works of Varèse. This season the orchestra has a new "A-series", standing for Adventures and Avant-garde. Some rehearsals are open to the public at lunchtime, when Chailly has been able to explain the more difficult music. "Concerts of new music shouldn't be seen as a ghetto for intellectuals — we're not intellectuals, we're musicians who are in love with what we do. And if we stick with the boring formulas of concert-giving just to please some of the public today, we'll be looking at empty halls tomorrow."

Some of his more serious-minded players needed convincing too. Their new *Shostakovich Film Album*, featuring some unfamiliar scores, is a reminder of the stir caused by the first release in the series, the *Jazz Album* — in spite of the orchestra's reputation for Shostakovich's music. "It provoked all sorts of misgivings and some musicians regretted having done it. But in the end the players understood that they had not lost credibility. The Concertgebouw hall has a deeply conservative image, but I always point out that it is the only place I heard B.B. King live."

Chailly admits that the response now from both orchestra and audience has surpassed his expectations, so much so that he regards the Concertgebouw as "a kind of isolated paradise". There is nowhere he would like to move on to at present, and he is certainly not about to go back to his operatic roots.

"Because I'm not yet a masochist, I've decided to reduce my opera work. There is the guarantee of a clash there — with the producer or the cast." Fortunately, Chailly names a few singers he counts as exceptions and has some operatic plans up his sleeve. The other place where he will be found regularly over the next few years is Milan, as music director of the recently founded Orchestra Giuseppe Verdi. "It's an adventure. Whereas in Amsterdam we're continuing a tradition, with these young players there's a tradition to be formed. The potential is very strong, and I want to forge something of my own while I've still got the energy to work, work and work."

● *Chailly conducts the Concertgebouw Orchestra at the Festival Hall tomorrow at 7.30pm (0171-960 4242). The* Shostakovich Film Album *is out next week on Decca*

■ CLASSICAL CDS

Ishiguro on Chopin

All alone and dancing in the dark

Continuing our Penguin classical CDs offer, **Kazuo Ishiguro** explains how his search for the saddest music brought him to Chopin

Not long ago, I went through a phase of asking people: "What do you consider the saddest music in the world?" This inquiry, prompted initially by a film project I was researching, aroused surprisingly passionate responses and quickly took on its own momentum. Recordings arrived in the post, total strangers phoned saying they'd heard of my quest and believed they could help. I was provided with adagios from numerous symphonies, Blind Lemon Jefferson singing about matches, Kathleen Ferrier's *Blow The Wind Southerly*; I was pointed towards Sufi music, Gregorian chants, Lisbon fados.

For two days I sat in a room at London's National Sound Archive while a helpful archivist brought me recording after recording of various ethnic folk musics he considered might be contenders. There was hardly a record that did not have behind it some long tragic history of suffering, that had not been shaped out of oppression, exile, war, famine. And yet I found myself, after the opening few seconds of each offering, shaking my head and saying: "No, no, not sad enough. I want something really sad."

As I write, my search continues — I've yet to find the music that is, beyond dispute, the saddest in the world. But my work so far has led me to one central insight: music that goes all out to embrace sadness, that attempts, as it were, to burrow into it, is prone to end up not especially sad at all. Truly sad music is most often music that is, on the surface, celebratory, even festive; the music of people trying to hold off sorrow, to lose themselves for a moment in the fleeting joys of life.

Amidst all that tragic folk music, it was curious how often it was the dances that carried this quality. And in the realm of composed music, I found myself returning again and again to the lonely piano of Chopin.

With the notable exception of his Funeral March, it is hard to find a passage of Chopin that is straightforwardly mournful. Frequently found working within dance genres — the waltz, the polonaise, the mazurka — he never neglects their natural exuberance. Yet his waltzes hardly conjure up magnificent balls: I see instead a solitary dancing couple in some large deserted house who know they will be parted once the music ends. Likewise, the wonderful nocturnes, though seemingly full of romantic yearning, are never without the anticipation of disappointment; and militaristic polonaises are underpinned by a nostalgia for a lost childhood, for an occupied Polish homeland remembered in exile.

This is the sadness to be found at the edge of a smile, the wistful shadow that follows the joyous fling of an arm. It is music that — like the short stories of Chekhov or the films of Yasujiro Ozu — celebrates life while never being able quite to forget its shortness and fragility. Chopin remains on my shortlist.

TOMORROW
Jan Morris on Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

HOW TO APPLY

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Court of Appeal — Law Report February 3 1999 — Court of Appeal

Directors' life payments agreement valid

Wright and Another v Atlas Wright (Europe) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment January 28]

Agreements between a company and its directors providing for payment for life terminable only by the recipients and not by the company were valid and enforceable even though the procedural steps set out in section 319 of the Companies Act 1985 had not been complied with, since real consent to the agreements was given by the sole shareholder of the company for an act which was intra vires the company's powers.

Applying the principle in *In re Duomatic* ([1969] 2 Ch 365), the formalities in section 319 were amenable to waiver by the class for whose benefit and protection it was designed, namely shareholders.

The *Duomatic* principle did not necessarily apply in respect of every resolution passed as an authorisation process under the 1985 Act. The underlying purpose of each provision had to be examined to determine whether the *Duomatic* principle applied in relation to it.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing the appeal of the defendant, Atlas Wright (Europe) Ltd, against the decision of Judge Gibbs QC, sitting as a High Court judge in Birmingham Mercantile Court on February 10, 1998, on questions of law under Order 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court in relation to agreements made between the defendant company and the plaintiffs, George Peter Wright and Jean Wright on May 9, 1988.

Mr Andrew Stafford for the company; Mr Alan Gourgey for Mr and Mrs Wright.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that the company was founded by Mr Wright in 1973 and carried on the business of design, manufacture and contracting of air-conditioning systems.

He was the chairman and managing director of the company and his wife, the second plaintiff, was a director. Between them they owned the entire share capital of the company.

In May 1987 the company's entire share capital was sold to Wheway plc and service agreements were entered into between the company and each of the plaintiffs, terminable on 12 months notice. A year later the first plaintiff wanted to retire, and on May 9, 1988 the agreements in question were made in substitution for the service agreements.

Mr Wright's agreement appointed him as president of the company for life, terminable by Mr Wright by six months notice. Mr and Mrs Wright were each to receive an annual remuneration of £10,000.

A special resolution of the company was passed on June 6, 1988 which authorised its board to appoint any person who was or had been a director to be president and determine the period that person was to hold office.

The chief executive of Wheway confirmed that he had authority to ratify the agreement between the company and Mr and Mrs Wright, and that he did so by special resolution.

On June 15, 1988 Mr and Mrs Wright resigned as directors. The company remained in the ownership of Wheway for seven years during which it honoured the agreements.

On November 2, 1995 the company's share capital was acquired by Atlas Wright (Europe) Ltd.

Following the change of control, the company's directors concluded that the agreements were not in its or its shareholders' best interests and by letter of December 23, 1996 gave notice to terminate the agreements with effect from January 31, 1997.

The company was advised that the agreements were void by reason of section 319 of the Companies Act 1985, and that was the sole defence it raised in the action commenced by Mr and Mrs Wright.

It was not in dispute that section 319 prohibited the grant to directors of contracts for more than five years long term contracts if those contracts could not be terminated by the company, unless certain procedural steps were taken, in which event such long term contracts could be granted.

The basic procedural steps were in broad terms that:

(a) The proposed agreement had to be approved by resolution at a general meeting (subsection (3));

(b) The proposed agreement had to be available for inspection for 15 days prior to that general meeting (subsection 5(a));

(c) The proposed agreement had to be available for inspection at the general meeting itself (subsection 5(b)).

Nor was it in dispute that such contracts were not rendered unlawful as a whole, the only sanction provided for being that in subsection (6), namely that to the extent that any term of the agreement contravened section 319 it was void, a deemed provision for reasonable notice being substituted.

The doctrine that the unanimous consent of all shareholders who had a right to attend and vote at a general meeting of the company could override formal, including statutory, requirements in relation to the passing of resolutions at such meetings (the *Duomatic* principle) had been developed and applied in a number of reported decisions, largely at first instance, and it was not argued that the *Duomatic* principle was in error.

The argument centred on whether the particular statutory language of section 319 excluded or rendered inappropriate the application of the *Duomatic* principle.

Before the judge it was argued for the company that the principle in *Duomatic* should not be applied so as to save the "for life" provision in Mr and Mrs Wright's contracts, in particular because the express provision in section 319(6) when coupled with subsections (3) and (5), amounted to peremptory language in respect of which there was no room for waiver or the application of the *Duomatic* principle.

The judge rejected that submission.

The purpose of section 319 of the 1985 Act was to ensure that a company should not be bound by an obligation to employ a director for more than five years unless its members had considered and approved the relevant term.

Section 319(6) was not felicitously drafted, but on the face of it it was unequivocal that contravention of the procedural provisions rendered the term of employment void to the extent that it exceeded five years.

The reasoning of Mr Justice Lindsay in *In re R W Peak (Kings Lynn) Ltd* ([1998] 1 BCLC 193), on the inter-relationship between the provisions for written resolutions in sections 381A-C and the *Duomatic* principle did not apply to the requirements of section 319 or the facts of the instant case.

Approaching the matter as one of principle, the submissions for Mr and Mrs Wright were to be preferred.

While the various authorities decided upon the *Duomatic* principle did not make clear just how far formalities required by statute as apparent preconditions for the efficacy of the company arrangements could be ignored as formalities overlooked by oversight and curable by assent, it seemed appropriate to approach that question on the basis of consideration of the purpose and underlying rationale of the particular formality in question.

Thus it was logical in the case of *R W Peak* not to apply the *Duomatic* principle when it would have undermined the clear statutory purpose of section 164(2) and (5), as well as the broad policy considerations of Chapter VII of the 1985 Act.

In this case it was plain that real consent was given by the sole shareholder of the company for an act which was intra vires the company's powers.

Further, there was no plain purpose behind section 319(3) and (5) beyond the benefit and protection of the shareholders of the company.

The underlying intention appeared to his Lordship to be to require unequivocal approval of the shareholders (subsection (3)) to a long term contract in respect of which there had been proper opportunity for the shareholders to consider the terms of the agreement approved (subsection (5)).

The requirement of subsection (3), taken alone, was unarguably amenable to the *Duomatic* principle.

While subsection (5) set out the formality required as a precondition to the passing of the resolution contemplated in subsection (3) it seemed to his Lordship no more than a back-up formality in the nature of a notice provision designed to ensure the opportunity for fully informed consent by the shareholders.

It was thus amenable to waiver by the class for whose protection it was designed, in circumstances where it was clear that there was in fact fully informed consent in respect of an agreement known to the sole shareholder for longer than the 15-day period provided for in subsection (5).

To determine whether the *Duomatic* principle applied in respect of any resolution passed as an authorisation process under the 1985 Act, each provision required to be examined on its merits against the criterion of underlying purpose.

There might well be good reasons for refusing to apply the *Duomatic* principle to a particular provision when its underlying purpose was examined.

His Lordship expressed no view on the applicability of the doctrine save in the case of section 319.

The judge was correct in holding that the relevant clause in each of the agreements in question were valid and of full effect.

Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Kennedy agreed.

Solicitors: Eversheds, Manchester; Wragge & Co, Birmingham.

Sentencing defendants who assist police

Regina v X

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Hughes and Judge Stephens, QC

[Judgment February 1]

Guidance as to the proper manner in which a sentencing judge should deal with confidential material put before him about a defendant who had given assistance to the police was given by the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division.

The court allowed an appeal by X against total sentences imposed in July 1998 in Croydon Crown Court by Judge Pratt of four years imprisonment for burglary and breach of probation orders in respect of theft and burglary. The sentences were reduced to three and a half years.

Mr Gordon Ross, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Miss Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE HUGHES, giving the judgment of the court, said that the case raised the question of the proper manner in which a sentencing judge should deal with a written confidential report made by a police officer and verified at senior level, indicating that the appellant had given information to the police.

The proper principles to be applied were as follows:

1 It should be remembered that a document of that kind, although supplied by a police officer, was supplied at the request of a defendant.

2 Except to the extent that a defendant's story was supported by the police, it would not generally be likely that the sentencing judge would be able to make any adjustment to the sentence. A defendant's unsupported assertions were not likely to make any difference.

3 It followed that courts had to rely heavily on the completeness and accuracy of the report as presented, and the greatest care had to be taken in the compiling of such documents for the perusal of a judge.

4 Except in very unusual circumstances it would not be necessary or desirable for a document of that kind to contain the kind of details which would necessitate a public interest immunity application.

5 If it did attract public interest immunity consideration then the usual rules about the conduct of such an application would apply: see Crown Court (Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996) (Disclosure) Rules (SI 1997 No 698).

6 Absent any consideration of public interest immunity, which their Lordships took to be the general position, a such documents should be shown to counsel for the defence who would no doubt discuss the contents with the defendant.

That was not because it would be necessary to debate its contents but so that there should be no reason for any unfounded suspicion that the judge had been told anything unfavourable.

On general principles a defendant was entitled to see documents to be put before the judge who was sentencing him. Expeditions to judges' chambers should not usually be necessary.

7 If a defendant disagreed with the contents of such a document it was not appropriate to cross-examine the police officer, either in court or in chambers. The police officer was not a Crown witness in such a situation. He was simply supplying information to the judge at the request of the defendant. If a defendant did not accept what the document said, his remedy was not to rely on it.

8 No doubt the judge should normally disregard such a document if asked to do so by the defendant.

9 If the judge did take the document into consideration then he should say no more than was current practice that he had taken it into account.

Consistently with those principles their Lordships approached the case on the basis of the written document before them, not on any assertion by the appellant outside that material. But because the material before them went somewhat further than that before the trial judge they considered that the sentence should be moderated.

Solicitors: CPS, Croydon.

Fire insurance valid

Printpak (a Firm) v AGF Insurance Ltd

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment January 29]

Breach of a section warranty in a commercial inclusive insurance policy did not invalidate the insurance cover under other sections of the policy. The terms of the policy were such as to exclude section 33(3) of the Marine Insurance Act 1906, which discharged an insurer from liability where a warranty was not complied with.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal from Judge Hegarty in the Manchester district registry of the Queen's Bench Division on September 24, 1997 ordering as a preliminary issue that the plaintiffs' breach of a warranty to maintain a burglar alarm did not invalidate their fire insurance under a policy with the defendants.

Section 33 of the 1906 Act provides: "(3) A warranty ... is a condition which must be exactly complied with, whether it be material to the risk or not. If it be not so complied with, then, subject to any express provision in the policy, the insurer is discharged from liability as from the date of the breach of warranty, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by him before that date."

Mr Anthony Barker, QC, for the defendants; Mr Paul Isaacs for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the plaintiffs' print finishing factory in Leeds had been insured under a commercial inclusive policy under which a number of sections each afforded a different kind of insurance policy.

The plaintiffs had sustained loss and damage by fire and claimed in respect of loss which the defendants repudiated alleging arson. The defendants also said that they were discharged from liability by reason of breach by the plaintiffs of a warranty in the policy.

The warranty provided that the burglar alarm be fully operational at all times when the premises were closed. When the fire took place the alarm was turned off because of building work.

It was necessary to focus on the form and structure of the policy itself. Each different type of risk was dealt with in a separate section.

Section A dealt with fire and other damage to property; section B theft; section C money; section H employer's liability, and so on.

The precise terms of insurance in respect of each risk were prescribed by a schedule, so that the individual policy was tailor-made to give the particular cover required. Under each risk in the schedule there was a list of "section endorsements". The alarm warranty was a section endorsement under section B, theft.

The crux of Mr Barker's argument was that when the policy was viewed as a single contract and there had been an attempted breach of the alarm warranty it followed in the light of the 1906 Act that the insurers were discharged from the contract.

In his Lordship's judgment, it did not follow that because it was a single contract it was to be treated as a seamless document. The commercial inclusive endorsements were all stated in terms to be "operative only as stated in the policy schedule".

Those words explicitly wrote the warranty into the relevant section and not into the others. That was also borne out by their being described as "section endorsements".

Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Paris & Co, Warwick; Eversheds, Leeds.

Correction

In *R v Liverpool City Magistrates, Ex parte Quantrell* (*The Times* February 2) the Divisional Court allowed the application of John Qantrell.

Summary assessment of interlocutory costs

Practice Direction (Supreme Court: Costs)

Arrangements were announced for the summary assessment of costs in interlocutory applications in the Queen's Bench and Chancery Divisions of the High Court and in county courts. Such arrangements did not apply to family proceedings in the High Court or in a county court.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, so stated on February 1 when sitting with Mr Justice Brian Smedley in the Lord Chief Justice's Court and issuing the practice direction given by his Lordship as President of the Queen's Bench Division and by Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, as Vice-President of the Chancery Division and on behalf of the Lord Chancellor pursuant to section 5 of the Civil Procedure Act 1997.

The direction stated:

1 Judges at all levels in the judiciary had a discretionary power to assess summarily the amount of costs to be paid by a party to the litigation to another party: see Order 62, rule 7(4)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court and Order 38, rule 3(3D) and rule 19(3) of the County Court Rules 1981.

It was desired to encourage a greater use by judges of that power. Accordingly, the following paragraph applied to every inter partes interlocutory hearing the estimated duration of which did not exceed one day.

2(i) At the conclusion of the hearing of every inter partes interlocutory application in the High Court and of every inter partes interlocutory application in the county court to which Order 38, rule 3(3D) or rule 19(3) of the County Court Rules 1981 applied, the court should consider whether or not to assess summarily the amount of the costs of the application to be recoverable by one party from another. Where Order 38, rule 19(1) of the County Court Rules 1981 applied, the court was obliged to assess the costs.

(ii) The general rule was that whenever a "costs in any event" order was made the court should make a summary assessment of costs unless there was good reason not to do so, for example, where the paying party showed substantial grounds for disputing the sum claimed for costs that could not be dealt with summarily.

(iii) Where costs were assessed summarily, the court might make an order for payment by some specified date or by instalments. If no such order was made the assessed costs would be payable within 14 days of the date of the order.

(iv) A summary assessment could not be made where any paying or receiving party was either legally aided and/or a person under a disability: see Order 80, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

(v) Order 59, rule 1B(1)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court applied both to the court's decision to make a summary assessment of costs and to the assessment itself.

3 Unless the court otherwise directed:

(i) Not later than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the hearing of every interlocutory application each party who intended to seek a "costs in any event" order had to supply every other party with a brief summary statement of the amount of the costs of the application that he would seek to recover under that order.

(ii) The statement had to state the amount and nature of any disbursements, including counsel's fees, and the amount of the solicitor's profit costs recovery of which would be sought. All amounts had to be shown net of value-added tax. If VAT was to be claimed, the amount of VAT had to be separately shown.

(iii) If the solicitor's profit costs had been calculated on the basis of a rate per hour, the statement had to specify the number of hours, the rate per hour and the grade of fee earner. If the solicitor's profit costs had been calculated on any other basis, the statement had to explain the basis of the calculation thereof.

(iv) The failure by a party without reasonable excuse to comply with sub-paragraph (i) was to be taken into account by the court in deciding what order in respect of the costs of the application should be made.

(v) The foregoing sub-paragraphs were not to apply where the parties had agreed between them the amount of the costs for which an order for payment should be made.

(vi) A model form for use when complying with sub-paragraph (i) was annexed (Available for Queen's Bench and Chancery cases from the Supreme Court Accounts Office, Room E01, Royal Courts of Justice, and for county court cases from any county court.)

4 The present practice direction would come into effect on Monday, March 1, 1999. It did not apply to family proceedings in the High Court or in a county court.

Notes

1 The present practice direction applied only to short interlocutory hearings, including summary judgment applications. That was in order to enable judges who had not previously been accustomed to assessing costs to gain some experience in doing so in short and simple cases.

It was intended that when the new civil procedure rules and practice directions came into force the restriction of the practice direction to interlocutory hearings would be removed.

In the meantime, the restriction should not be taken as any discouragement to judges who wished to exercise their power to assess costs in cases not falling within the scope of the present practice direction from doing so.

2 Order 38, rule 19(1) of the County Court Rules 1981 required the court to assess costs without a taxation (a) where the costs were awarded on the lower scale and (b) where the costs were awarded on scale 1 and the solicitor for the receiving party so desired.

In cases covered by Order 38, rule 19(1) an assessment was obligatory not discretionary.

In county court proceedings, the court had a discretionary power to assess costs under Order 38, rule 3(3D), where costs were awarded on scale 2, and under rule 17B and rule 19(3), where costs were awarded on scale 1 and were not included in the general costs of the action.

Thereapart, in county court proceedings the court had no power to assess costs. The present provisions would no longer apply after April 26, 1999.

3 Paragraph 3 of the present practice direction applied to all interlocutory hearings the estimated duration of which did not exceed one day. Failure to comply with sub-paragraph (i) might be taken as indicating that the party in default would not be seeking an order for costs.

4 On April 26, 1999 the costs practice direction supplemental to parts 43 to 48 of the Civil Procedure Rules would come into effect. Paragraphs contained in section 3 of the costs practice direction relating to part 44 would supersede and replace the provisions of the present practice direction without materially altering their effect.

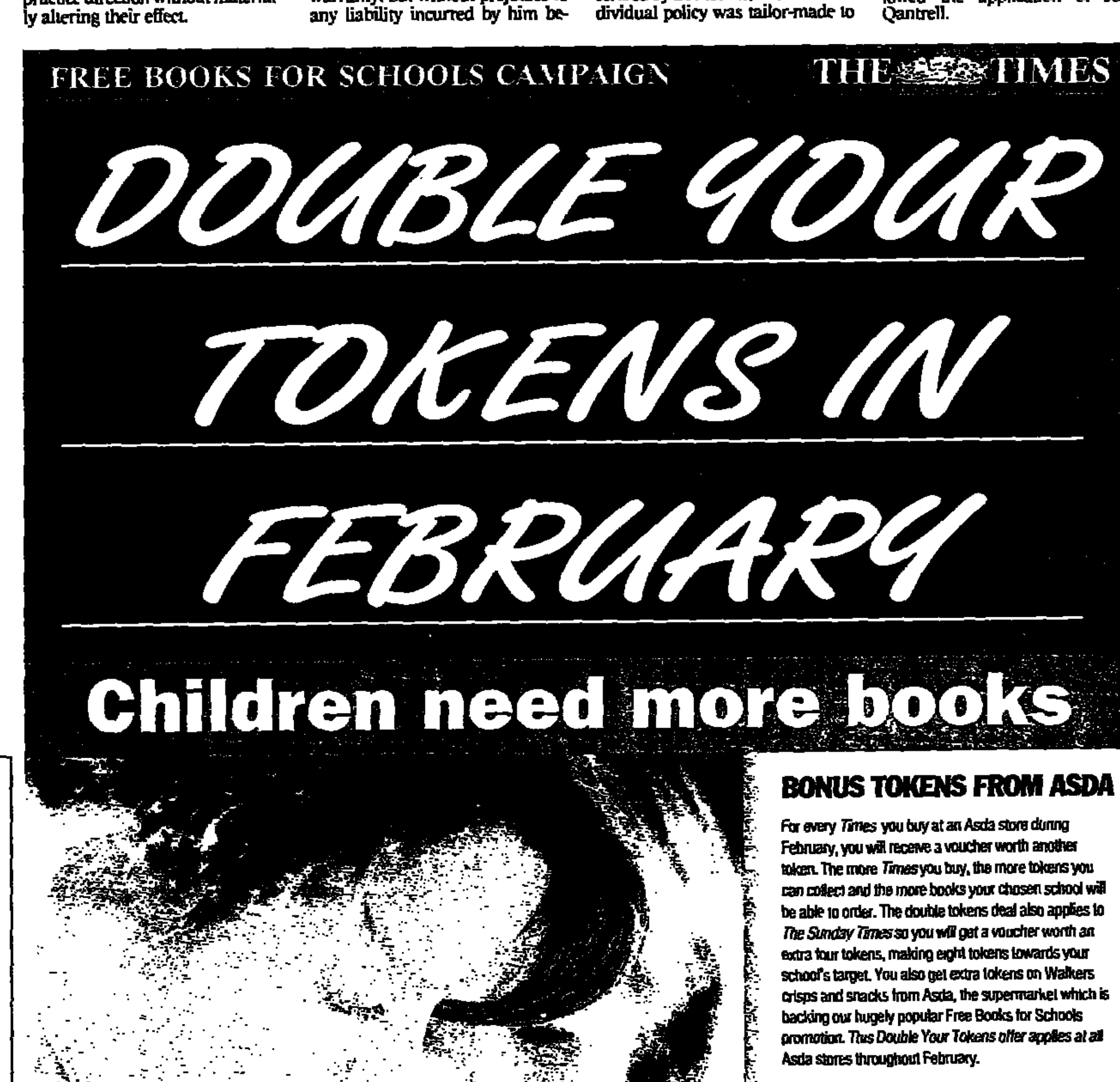
Judicial review inappropriate

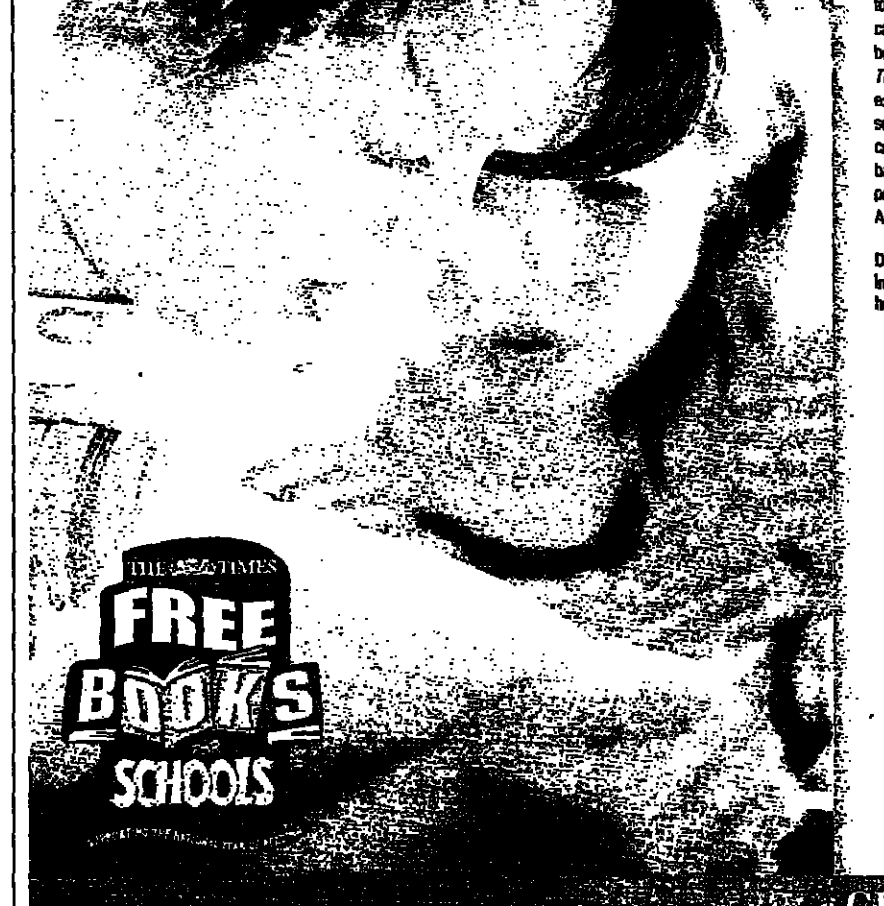
Ex parte Nacion

It would not normally be appropriate to seek judicial review of the decision of a local housing authority, in the exercise of its discretion under section 204(4) of the Housing Act 1996, to refuse to continue to secure that accommodation was made or available for a person pending the determination of his appeal to the county court under section 204(1) against the authority's decision concerning his eligibility for assistance as a homeless person.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Tuckey, so stated on February 1, refusing a renewed application by Ramon Nacion for leave to move for judicial review of the refusal of Brighton and Hove Council to continue to provide him with accommodation pending determination of his appeal to the county court under section 204(1).

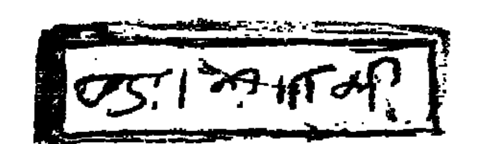
THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that judicial review would be an appropriate remedy where the authority had failed to consider whether to exercise its discretion under section 204(4) to continue to secure that accommodation was available for such a person.



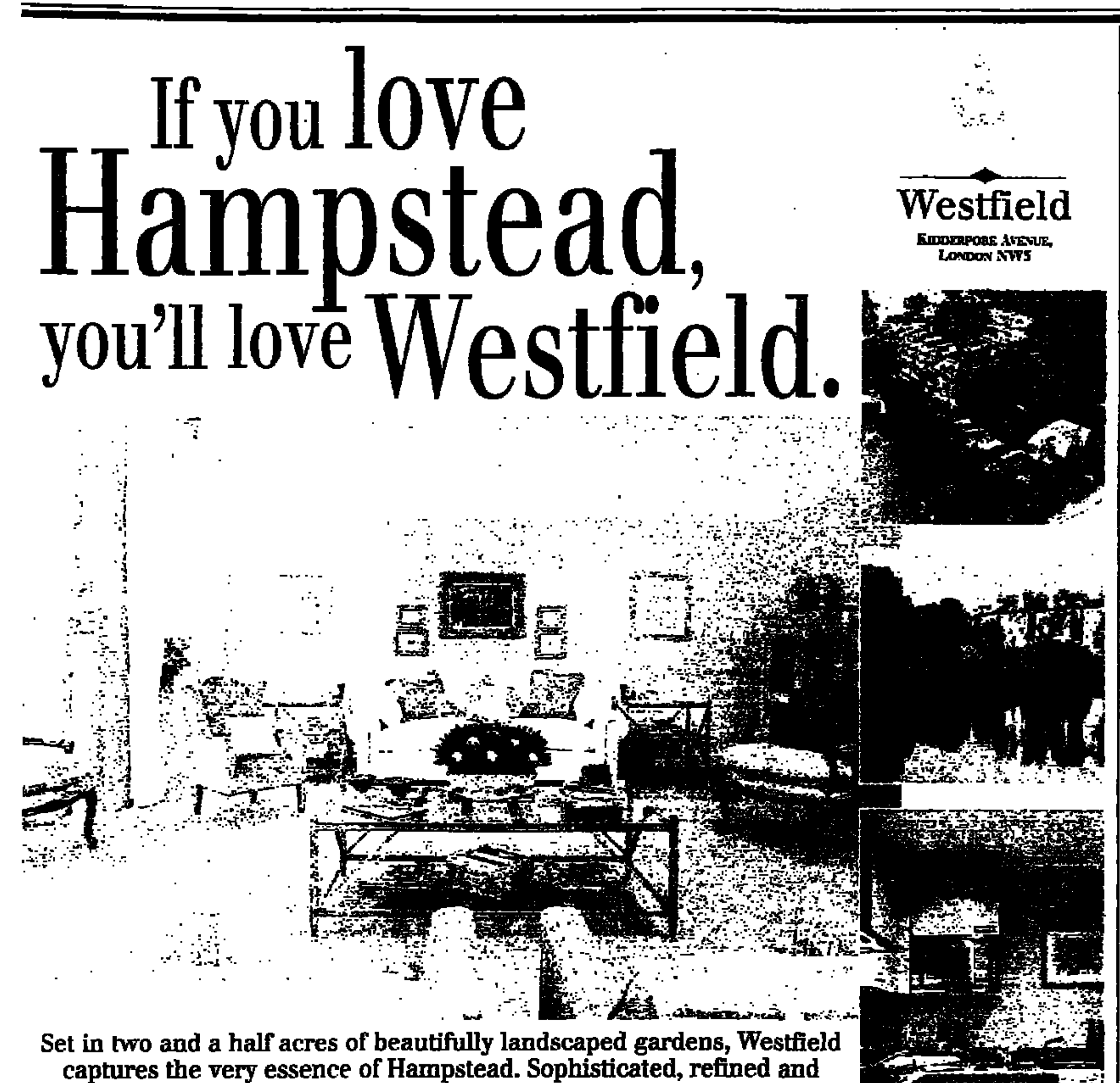








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Best movers of the year

What makes a good estate agent and who is at the top? **Rachel Kelly** searches out high-flyers

Selling your house is an emotional business, famously equal in stress to bereavement and divorce. So, for the third year running, we are responding to readers' requests to list Britain's top agents.

Choosing the right name from behind the agency banners can mean the difference between a smooth 12 weeks (the average time it takes to sell a house, according to Black Horse agencies) or a period fraught with tension.

Whatever the firms say in their marketing spiel, individuals, not companies, sell houses. It is an individual's ability to act as salesman, midwife, agony uncle or aunt and deal-maker that not only achieves the best price, but also ensures that a sale proceeds smoothly.

We have again asked the buying agents Property Vision, Bedrock International and Homefront to nominate the movers in the agency world. Such firms work with agents on a daily basis because they act for buyers. We have also asked Stowe Construction for its views. As a developer of houses in the Home Counties and Central London, Stowe has an acute sense of who actually sells the schemes that they have completed.

"There are two types of agent. There are those who sit in their offices and wait for the phone to ring, and those who are out in the marketplace, on the street, finding out all and everything about the market in their local area," says Harry Marriott of Stowe.

The best agents have an impressive databank of information in their heads: recent sales, prices per square foot, the condition of the property, who might sell, who is getting divorced, who married, who might buy, who is having a baby. It is a detailed knowledge of the minutiae of people's lives that makes deals happen for the top operators. They will move quickly to view a property and move mountains to show it (Sundays are no problem if that is what a buyer wants). The smartest agents ride motorbikes (think of Ed Mead at the London agents Douglas & Gordon), which give them an added edge.

The best agents socialise with their clients and in the country that may mean taking up shooting or hunting. And they are friendly with other agents, too: they are a key source of information and potential deals. In London agents share information after an initial attempt to sell on their own.

Good agents are in for the long haul. A successful sale may mean another instruction five years later. The best operators are local, not seeking to master the world, but a few streets or even a square (Graham Scott Dalgleish, from the agents W. A. Ellis, is the expert on Cadogan Square in Chelsea, for example).

Last year was a difficult one for agents. The property market wobbled, then all but died in the autumn as fluctuating world financial markets left buyers and sellers uncertain. In such a climate it takes courage, as Willie Gething of Property Vision says, to tell a potential client that his or her house is worth less than Mrs Jones's three doors down (which has an extra bedroom and has been totally refurbished).

The names on our list should help sellers seeking the best price for their home, and should help buyers too. These are often agents with the best selection on their books. Inevitably, they are biased to the top end of the market because these are the agents known to buying agents.



AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

AT THE top end of the Central London market, David Forbes of Chesterfield is a preeminent deal-doer. Over the past year he has moved west from his Chelsea and Knightsbridge stamping grounds and now sells as often in W11 and Kensington as in southwest London.

Other names doing the top deals are Alan Russell, of Russell Simpson, who sells some of London's most expensive properties, and Andrew Langton of Aylesford.

In Chelsea, honourable mentions go to Louise Hewlett of Aylesford, and Andy Buchanan, of John D Wood, who knows everything there is to know about Chelsea Square. Still doing deals with persistence and tenacity are Charlotte Mortimer and Jonathan Hewlett at FPD Savills, and Howard Elston of Strutt & Parker.

Mr Hewlett has a lower profile than some, but handled the sale of Lord Lloyd-Webber's house in Eaton Square and is currently selling the Ski Club in Eaton Square for about £15 million. Dick Ford, at Knight Frank in Kensington Church Street, is among the most experienced operators in the Kensington market. His background as the son of a courtier ensures his smooth dealings with sometimes difficult clients, while Ed Mead, of Douglas & Gordon, is making a name for himself selling in South Kensington and Chelsea.

Farther out, Michael Comyn, of John D Wood in Trinity Road, is the best, most professional agent at the top end of the market in Wandsworth.

Niall McMahon, of McMahon & Co, is still selling more houses on communal gardens in W11 than anyone else, his close friendships and long residence in the area making him a natural. Paul Finnegan, of FPD Savills, was cited as a top agent for the most expensive properties in Richmond and Wimbledon and within the M25. "He is very professional, on time and good-humoured," one buying agent says.

In the country, Sam Butler, of Butler Sherbourne in Burford, Oxfordshire, gets top marks. Mr Butler was a partner in Knight Frank and has built up a thriving practice with three or four offices in Gloucestershire. It specialises in the middle and upper end of the market.

Martin Lamb, of Knight Frank in Exeter, is an excellent and convivial agent for the West Country. Tommy de Malet Morgan, of Savills in Guildford, easily defends his place on the previous lists.

John Husband, of Humberts in Lewes, East Sussex, is not only an agent who makes deals happen but is also one with an informed view of the marketplace.

Patrick Bailey, of Strutt & Parker in Newbury, specialises in Berkshire property, as does Brenda Coates, of Dreweatt Neate.

For property in Wiltshire, Graham Waterton, of Strutt & Parker in Salisbury, gets top marks, while Atty Boer-Roberts, of Knight Frank, is recommended for property in Gloucestershire. In Cambridgeshire, Bidwell's Jock Lloyd-Jones in Trumpington ranks highly. In Northamptonshire, those interested in smaller properties will not go far wrong with Richard Jones, of Jackson-Stops & Staff. Michael Dunning, of Lane Fox in Winchester, was highly praised, as was Philip Blanchard, of John D Wood's Winchester office.

Farther east, Conrad Payne, of Cluttons Daniel Smith, was cited for his skills in and around Canterbury.

In the Cotswolds, Harry Clegg, of Clegg Kennedy Drew, is recommended for selling farms or estates up to and above £1 million. Robin Thomas, of Strutt & Parker in Exeter, covers Devon, Cornwall and parts of Somerset.

Also in Somerset, try Richard Pawson, of Humberts. Ian Stirling, of Lane Fox in Banbury, has been described as "the best agent in north Oxfordshire". In Exeter, Tim Page-Ratcliffe, of Strutt & Parker, is widely recommended. In Kent, Martyn Phillips of Phillips & Stubbs scored top marks, while in Towcester, Northamptonshire, Peter Evans of Bartram & Co is deemed a significant threat to rival firms.

Farther north, Tim Blenkin, of Blenkin & Co, works with Knight Frank, and is the person to contact for expensive estate sales in Yorkshire, especially in the Humbleton and Howardian Hills area. There are honourable mentions, too, for Tim Waring and Tony Wright, of Carter Jonas in Harrogate. Edward Waterson, of Carter Jonas in York, was another agent collecting compliments.

In Scotland, James Carnegie-Arbuthnott, of Brodies, comes highly recommended for anyone wishing to sell estates in and around Edinburgh. Simon Rettie, of Rettie & Co, is another rising star, adept at finding houses in Edinburgh from £150,000.

Angus Cheape, of Langley Taylor, once again drew warm reviews. Niall Graham-Campbell is from Finlayson Hughes, one of the few agencies to have an Inverness offices. He has carved out a niche selling Highland estates.

SMART MOVES

THE house featured in the BBC television series *Miss Marple* is for sale. Oak Cottage, Lunscombe Hill, Devon, was built in 1863 and has many period features such as stone mullioned windows, leaded lights, carved corbels and Tudor-style chimneys. A main feature of the house is the classically landscaped garden. Robert Williams's Exeter office is selling the four-bedroom house for £340,000.

■ ONE of London's most expensive houses is for sale. The Grade II listed Old Rectory, Old Church Street, Chelsea, was bought by Gianna Angelopoulos, a Greek lawyer, for £25 million in 1995. She and her husband, Dimitris Avramopoulos, have spent £10 million redecorating the 50-room 18th-century home.

■ THE Connaught Square property once home to Victor Lowndes, the head of the British division of the Playboy Club and right-hand man to Hugh Hefner, is on offer. Many celebrities, such as Bill Cosby, Tony Curtis and Warren Beatty, attended parties there in the Sixties. Roman Polanski is said to have held his stag party at the house before his marriage to Sharon Tate. Chestertons Residential Hyde Park office is asking £1.3 million for the lease.

■ THE house of the Rev Francis Kilvert is for sale. *Kilvert's Diary*, published in 1938, elevated this humble parish priest to posthumous world fame and gave a unique insight into the Victorian rural scene in the 1870s. During the last ten years of his life he kept a diary in small notebooks. The most interesting parts were printed but the rest of the diary was destroyed and only three notebooks survived. The Old Vicarage, Bredwardine, Herefordshire, is a five-bedroom house and is for sale through Knight Frank's Hereford office for £425,000.

■ A CLERKENWELL flat designed by Peter Mandelson's architect, Seth Stein, is for rent. The flat, in fashionable St John Street, is nestled between restaurants and bars, including Stephen Bull, Vic Naylor's bar, Cicada and Café Lazeez. Club Gascon is close by. The flat is for rent through Hurford Salvi Carr for £550 a week.

BEN WAKEHAM

Fancy a Hebridean isle?

Andrew Eames on a Scottish sale

Six crofters on the Scottish island of Barra are putting the tail of the Outer Hebrides on the market. For the past 80 years, the Barra Head islands have been largely uninhabited, but Pabbay once hosted a whisky still for passing fishermen. On Mingulay, the remains of the village are still standing, though only the schoolhouse has a roof.

The crofters are relinquishing the islands with regret, but the simple practicalities of grazing their sheep 25 nautical miles from home make economic nonsense of a tradition that has produced some of the finest organic lamb in the world.

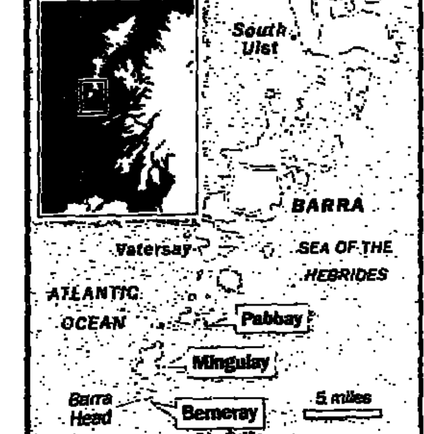
"Sixty-four years ago a sheep from Mingulay sold for £4 a head," Roddy Macleod, one of the six, says. "This year they sold for £2.20 each — and it cost us £3 to get them to market."

The six Barra families have owned the islands (Mingulay, Berneray, Pabbay and assorted islets) since 1955, but managing them has been back-breaking and bank-breaking work. Take, for example, the annual round-up for market. None of these islands has sheltered landing places for boats, so first you must catch a wild sheep before tucking it under your arm while it struggles furiously, and wade out to a dinghy pitching around in the shallows. Transfer the sheep to the bigger boat and repeat 300 times. Even with subsidies it is pretty unrewarding work.

Everyone who has set foot on Mingulay, the largest of the islands, speaks of its distinctive charm. Long ago it was the inspiration for the *Mingulay Boat Song*, which still features in local ceilidhs.

The 640-hectare island is quite treeless — it is gentle and green on the eastern side, rising to some dramatic cliffs in the west. It has a microclimate that belongs more to the sunshine-rich Tiree, to its south, than to the misty Outer Hebrides stretching to the north.

Until the beginning of this century the people of Mingulay lived largely by crofting, fishing and eating seabirds caught from the cliffs. Ian Alan MacNeil, whose mother was from Mingulay, used to run the small ferry between Barra and the island of Vatersay. He knows how tricky these waters can be. Mr MacNeil recently came to the rescue of Mingulay's temporary resident, the Glasgow-based conceptual artist Julie Brooke, when treacherous autumn weather rendered the island unapproachable for two weeks longer than she had expected.



Ms Brooke, who was seven months pregnant and had been on the island since May, was understandably relieved to see him. "It's going to be a very healthy baby," she says. "It's had plenty of fresh air."

That was Ms Brooke's third season alone on Mingulay, and she described it as something of a personal tragedy that the islands have to be sold. She is accustomed to living alone in the wilds, having spent several years in a cave on the island of Jura until that had become unavailable to her.

The Barra Head crofters allowed her to set up on Mingulay after she gave them a demonstration of her work. She remembers that there was "a sort of silence after the slide show — and then Roddy said it was not really the sort of thing they were used to". Nevertheless, the crofters gave her permission to use the schoolhouse whenever they were not visiting and since then they have been "incredibly supportive" of her work, some of which remains on the island.

Stock management expeditions to outlying uninhabited islands are a part of Hebridean crofting culture. Mr Macleod and his colleagues used to travel out a couple of times a year to Mingulay and stay there for as long as was necessary.

"It was always hard work, but it was also a good time," he says. "We'd tell all the stories, have a good crack."

Quite who will be tempted by this fluttering tail of islands is anyone's guess, says Ken MacDonald, the Stornoway-based lawyer acting on behalf of the crofters. "I can't recall anything like this ever appearing on the market before," he says.

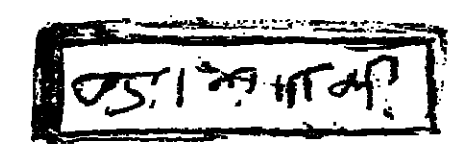
Mr MacDonald expects the larger countryside or wildlife agencies such as the RSPB to enter the bidding, but the latter says that the islands do not have a sufficiently unusual bird population.

The National Trust for Scotland is more positive. "The islands have real scenic and archaeological value," a spokesman says.

Although a full valuation has yet to be completed, there has been talk of a price tag as high as £1 million. "It doesn't sound unreasonable," says the Hamburg-based agent Farhad Vladi, who specialises in selling islands to the very wealthy. "The island market is strong and there hasn't recently been much for sale in Scotland."

For private purchasers the perceived romance of the islands will be crucial. For the agencies, the price could be the sticking point.

Mr MacNeil admits to being unhappy with the idea of his mother's birthplace falling into foreign hands. He returns there quite often in the summer months, taking people to look at where their families once lived. It would be a shame if that tradition, too, had to stop.



LONDON PROPERTY

CORNWALL

SURREY

SUSSEX

DERBYSHIRE

DEVON

WALES

YORKSHIRE

WORCESTERSHIRE

EAST ANGLIA

ESSEX

CARIBBEAN

FRANCE

HAMPSHIRE

SPAIN

HERTFORDSHIRE

USA

LONDON RENTALS

SURREY

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

PORTUGAL

NEW HOMES



LONDON RENTALS

LONDON RENTALS

Chris McGrath finds Florida Pearl's trainer in confident mood

Mullins keeper of the faith

It is a plucky hand he is playing, all right, but then that is how the Irish have come to trust him. A lesser man would lose his nerve. At Leopardstown on Sunday, Florida Pearl goes on trial for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup. He fell in the Ericsson Chase there on his reappearance, only the fourth time he had jumped obstacles under Rules.

Willie Mullins did not panic, did not rush extra experience into him. As a rival trainer puts it: "By God, Willie's going to look some sort of genius if he pulls it off. He'd nearly be one, too."

That messianic spectre, the heir to Arkle, has been perceived more than once in Ireland over the past thirty years or so, but only through a glass darkly — generally followed, in brave sorrow, by several more glasses.

Now, as they drain the black stuff in celebration and conviction, a clearer vision of greatness is emerging in Florida Pearl, as graceful as he is powerful. Yet the more feverish his countrymen, the more placid seems Mullins in his lair under the Blackstairs mountains.

It is not his fault that racing people — in Ireland as anywhere — have such a weakness for prophets and loss, for these beguiling cycles of expectation and disillusion, loose talk and tight belts. The trouble is that he is insisting, almost casually, that this time they have the real thing on their hands. And one has to accept what he says, not merely because he is so genuine, so wholly lacking in vanity, but because he so obviously knows what he is talking about.

His father, Paddy, is the revered patriarch of Irish National Hunt trainers. Willie, 42, was working for the old man when Dawn Run launched hundreds of trilbies into the grandstand roof at Cheltenham after the 1986 Gold Cup.

"Icon" is a word that can be used too freely in such a frivolous context, but Mullins understands how countless ordinary people exult in these dreams. By the same token, he is aware of his responsibilities, of the pain that accompanies iconoclasm. Yet he is adamant that this wonderful horse, 17 hands tall with a white blaze, can shoulder the greatest of expectations. "I'm not going to try to compare him with Arkle," he says. "He was something else. But I certainly think he's good enough to be the best since."

Nobody, moreover, could demonstrate more credibly that he knows where he stands with a racehorse. The barns at his stables in the Barrow valley, between Carlow and Kilkenny, are identified by the paint on the box doors. In the red barn, three adjacent stalls are occupied by horses that consecrated him as the redeemer of consecutive Festivals for thousands of Irish punters. Wither Or Which, Florida Pearl and Alexander Banquet have won the last three runnings of the Bumper to the relief of their animated supporters.

He rode Wither Or Which himself. "On the morning of the race I heard Ted Walsh on the television talking about the Irish banker. He said that they'd better get a good look at him down the start, as that was the last they'd see of him. I asked who he was talking about, and they told me it was Wither Or Which. That was a fair shock to me.

"Then, when we got home — the people who'd left work to go to the betting offices, people who'd never set foot in one in their lives. Apparently, they were crammed. The Irish banker is not the owner's or the trainer's. He belongs to the Irish people. They latch onto one or two, and that's it."

Florida Pearl has obliged in this role twice already, having returned last year for the Royal & SunAlliance Chase, and Mullins thinks he is better still this year. He had decided, after the Bumper, not to squander Florida Pearl's precious resources. He would miss out hurdling and run him as sparingly as possible to preserve, with luck, three cracks at the Gold Cup. Everything had gone right until the last ditch at the Christmas meeting, when he was still on the bridle in pursuit of Dorans Pride.

"It could be a blessing in disguise," Mullins said. "Jackie [his wife] always rides the horse and reckons he's very intelligent. What you teach him, he learns, repeats. Richard [Dunwoody] had not wound him up for the previous five or six fences and asked him just three strides out. In his own mind, the horse was waiting to get reined back just to pop it, hadn't realised he'd got the office to fly it. Maybe next time Richard will know not to ask him so quickly."

However, the dream is alive for the Hennessy on Sunday. Archie O'Leary, the owner of Florida Pearl, rejected an offer of £400,000 this time last year: Mullins disclosed that two further bids, presumably even bigger, have been rejected in the last month. O'Leary remains steadfast. Famously, the Corkman once told a caller: "I am for sale. So is my wife. But the horse is not." As Mullins says: "After all, this is what you strive for. You spend your life trying for this."

O'Leary, a former rugby international, had found sporting fulfilment priceless as an amateur. Emboldened by the recent endeavours of Ulster and London Irish, perhaps his successors will shock the French at Lansdowne Road on Saturday. It could be quite a weekend in Dublin.

CAROLINE NORRIS



Mullins checks the wellbeing of Florida Pearl, nearside, after a workout with Alexander Banquet yesterday

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Elegant Des Cosses (3.10 Newton Abbot)

Philip Hobbs boasts a fine record at Newton Abbot, and this French chase winner can add to the trainer's success at the Devon track. Next best: Atavistic (4.10 Newton Abbot)

Mill Reef's owner dies

PAUL MELLON, 91, a leading owner-breeder, died at his Virginian home on Monday. Ian Balding, who trained Mellon's horses in Britain, said yesterday: "Peter Hastings Bass and before him his father, Aubrey, trained for him before I did. He had horses in Britain for over 50 years. I trained a host of good horses for him, but Mill Reef (Derby, Eclipse Stakes, King George and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe) was the main one."

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WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.30 Pearly Queen. 2.00 Frederick James. 2.30 PRIDE OF BRIXTON (nap). 3.00 China Castle. 3.30 Be Warned. 4.00 Weet U There. 4.30 Cantgetyourbreath.

GOING: STANDARD — SIS

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.30 CHIVE MAIDEN HANDICAP (Div I: £2,424: 7f) (11 runners)

101 (5) -032 ARC 14 (BF) F Jordan 5-9-11 ... R Perham 68
102 (10) 000- SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 ... R Cochrane 55
103 (4) 200- TECHNICIAN 109 (B) E Alston 4-9-1 ... J Quinn 85
104 (8) 00-0 STRAVSEA 9 G Baugh 4-8-13 ... R Lappin 78
105 (6) 00-5 MANIKATO 11 (V) D Cosgrove 5-8-7 ... G Faulkner (3) 72
106 (11) 3-05 SCINTILLATING SOUND 14 S Bowring 4-8-3 ... F Norton 57
107 (3) 2-60 PEARLY QUEEN 15 G Bravery 4-8-2 ... A Polli (3) 77
108 (9) 000/ SHARP HOLLY 600 M Bradstock 7-7-10 ... T Smith (5) –
109 (1) 05-0 TOWNVILLE CEE CEE 32 G Woodward 4-7-10 P Fessey 69
110 (7) 500- AVERHAM STAR 198 D Shaw 4-7-10 ... G Bardwell 51
111 (2) 6-00 FLYING TOUCH 16 N Littmoden 4-7-10 ... R Thomas (7) 54

7-4 Arc, 2-1 Technician, 5-1 Manikato, 10-1 Society King, 12-1 others.

2.00 CHIVE MAIDEN HANDICAP (Div II: £2,411: 7f) (10)

201 (5) 6-24 WAITING KNIGHT 7 (V) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-10 DOUBTFUL 84
202 (3) 4533 FREDERICK JAMES 5 H Haynes 5-9-5 ... R Havlin 70
203 (10) 202- PRODIGAL SON 109 Mrs V Ward 4-9-1 ... N Pollard (3) 86
204 (9) 30-2 LOVE OPERA 7 (V) J Berry 4-8-8 ... P Fessey 73
205 (6) 40-0 DE-WOLF 19 (V) P Makin 4-8-8 ... A Clark 66
206 (4) 550- LESLEY'S ADVENTURE 175 E Alston 4-8-4 ... J Quinn 43
207 (7) 3-04 NOBLE PATRIOT 21 R Hollinshead 4-8-2 ... P M Quinn (7) 77
208 (1) 5-50 ITALIAN ROSE 16 A Carroll 4-7-10 ... A Polli (3) 85
209 (2) 00-0 FALKENBERG 16 (B) B Pearce 4-7-10 ... G Bardwell 88
210 (6) 00-0 RED RISK 7 S Knight 4-7-10 ... P Bradley (7) 50

7-4 Love Opera, 4-1 Frederick James, 5-1 Noble Patriot, 6-1 Prodigal Son, 7-1 others.

2.30 SAGE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,015: 5f) (8)

301 (4) 0-52 PRIDE OF BRIXTON 11 (CD) A Reid 6-9-13 ... N Pollard (3) 76
302 (5) -033 MAITEAMIA 7 (B,D,G,S) S Bowring 6-9-11 C Teague (3) 88
303 (2) 0-05 NIFTY NORMAN 7 (D,G,S) D Nicholls 5-9-9 Alex Greaves 74
304 (3) 00-1 BOLD FRONTIER 11 (V,CD,F) K Ivory 7-9-7 Martin Dwyer 77
305 (1) 0605 FEATHERSTONE LANE 7 (CD,F) Miss L Siddall 8-9-7 ... Dean McKeown 79
306 (6) 1-51 MARY JANE 7 (CD,F) J Berry 4-9-2 ... P Roberts (3) 85
307 (8) -632 LITTLE IBNR 2 (V,CD,F) P Evans 8-9-1 ... Dane O'Neill 73
308 (7) 2-14 TROJAN GIRL 11 (CD) N Littmoden 3-8-6 T G McLaughlin 78

3-1 Bold Frontier, 4-1 Pride Of Brixton, Trojan Girl, 6-1 Little Ibnr, Mary Jane, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: I Balding, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; G Woodward, 4 from 12, 33.3%; J Banks, 8 from 26, 30.8%; M Bell, 17 from 75, 22.7%; M Johnston, 46 from 240, 19.2%; J Pearce, 18 from 96, 18.8%.

JOCKEYS: N Callan, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; R Cochrane, 18 from 95, 18.9%; Alex Greaves, 11 from 61, 18.0%; G Faulkner, 10 from 66, 15.2%; P Bradley, 5 from 35, 14.3%; T McLaughlin, 22 from 154, 14.3%.

3.00 THYME HANDICAP (£6,098: 1m 4f) (9)

401 (9) 416- PRIMARY COLOURS 39 (CD,S) J Pearce 4-9-13 R Price 70
402 (8) 1113 CHINA CASTLE 7 (BF,CD) P Haslam 6-9-9 P Goode (7) 89
403 (5) 600- PROTOCOL 53J (D,S) Mrs S Lamyman 5-9-2 C Teague (3) 97
404 (6) 00-0 JAMAICAN FLIGHT 14 (CD,F) Mrs S Lamyman 6-8-12 ... R Lappin 103
405 (3) 42/6 FITZWILLIAM 16 (F) I BALDING 6-8-9 ... DOUBTFUL 74
406 (4) 3-10 FAILED TO HIT 14 (V,CD,F) N Littmoden 6-8-7 ... J Tate 93
407 (2) 0-11 MIGWAR 18 (D,F) N Littmoden 6-8-3 ... T Sprake 95
408 (1) 6-23 LYSANDROS 11 (D,G) N Chance 5-8-0 ... P Fessey 85
409 (7) -232 KING PRIAM 9 (B,D,G) M Polglase 4-7-11 J Quinn 113

15-8 China Castle, 11-4 King Priam, 13-2 Primary Colours, Migwar, Lysandros, 7-1 Failed To Hit, 12-1 Jamaican Flight, 20-1 others.

3.30 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£6,873: 1m 1f 79yd) (11)

501 (8) 0-13 THREADNEEDLE 18 (F) K Burke 6-10-0 ... N Callan (5) 98
502 (5) 3-46 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 18 (V,C) P Evans 5-9-7 C Cogan (7) 96
503 (1) -334 BE WARNED 14 (V,CD,F,G,S) J Pearce 8-9-3 A Polli (3) 96
504 (10) 00-0 DIAMOND FLAME 14 (CD) P Harris 5-9-1 ... C Lowther 95
505 (4) -120 JIBEREEN 9 (C,F,G,S) P Howling 7-9-0 ... S Whitworth 92
506 (6) 10-2 TALLULAH BELLE 7 (CD,F,S) N Littmoden 6-8-9 ... T G McLaughlin 96
507 (3) 20-5 PUZZLEMENT 23 (CD,F) C Brittain 5-8-9 ... R Cochrane 99
508 (7) 100- BOWCLIFFE 109 (CD,F,G) E Alston 8-8-6 ... N Carlisle 97
509 (9) -101 THEKRYAATI 11 (C) M Johnston 4-7-12 ... J Quinn 98
510 (11) 0-45 SWIFT 5 (C,F,G) M Polglase 5-7-10 ... P Fessey 102
511 (2) 10-0 CHEERFUL GROOM 5 (C,F) D Shaw 8-7-10 G Bardwell 93

4-1 Thekryaati, 9-2 Threadneedle, 5-1 Tallulah Belle, 8-1 Italian Symphony, Be Warned, Jibereen, 10-1 Puzzlement, 12-1 others.

4.00 MARJORAM SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £1,822: 6f) (7)

601 (7) -435 WEET U THERE 7 (C) R Hollinshead 9-3 ... A Culhane 55
602 (2) 060- GREY STRIKE 75 J Berry 8-12 ... Merete Hanssen (7) 47
603 (1) 0-53 DIAMOND BLUSH 11 N Littmoden 8-7 T G McLaughlin 29
604 (5) 053- DIAMOND ROUGE 142 A Bailey 8-7 ... J Bosley (7) 30
605 (4) 06-0 MAID PLANS 23 N Littmoden 8-7 ... R Thomas (7) 42
606 (6) -443 NICHOLAS MISTRESS 15 P Evans 8-7 ... C Cogan (7) 59
607 (3) 3 SAND STORM 18 B Meehan 8-7 ... G Hannon (7) 45

7-4 Weet U There, 9-2 Diamond Blush, Sand Storm, 5-1 Nicholas Mistress, 7-1 Diamond Rouge, 12-1 Maid Plans, 16-1 Grey Strike.

4.30 OREGANO HANDICAP (3-Y-O £3,640: 6f) (9)

1 (9) U1-5 SCARLETT'S BOY 25 (BF,CD) N Littmoden 9-7 ... T G McLaughlin 57
2 (4) -535 POLLY MILLS 5 (B,S) P Evans 9-4 ... Dane O'Neill 77
3 (6) 41-2 SEREN TEG 27 (CD) R Palling 9-2 ... G Faulkner (3) 77
4 (7) 4-41 CATCHTHEBATCH 18 (D) E Wheeler 8-11 S Carson (7) 81
5 (2) 420- DILETTO 110 E Alston 8-7 ... J Quinn 68
6 (5) 015- INDIAN SWINGER 82 (BF,D) J Eustace 8-7 ... J Tate 77
7 (1) 52-4 CANTGETYOURBREATH 27 (V,D) Mrs N Macauley 8-7 ... Amanda Sanders 79
8 (8) 0-11 ROYAL PREVIEW 19 (D) M Bell 8-6 ... C Carver (7) 79
9 (3) 2-00 DOLLY DAY DREAM 13 (D,F) K Ivory 8-1 ... C Catlin (7) 76

3-1 Seren Teg, 9-2 Scarlett's Boy, Royal Preview, 11-2 Polly Mills, 6-1 Cantgetyourbreath, 8-1 Catchthebatch, 10-1 Indian Swinger, 14-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Musselburgh

Going: good, good to soft in places

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, **Es Go** (H Bastiman, 4-6 fav); 2, Lead Dancer (4-1), 3, Alben The Bear (11-1). 9 ran. 13l, 8l. R Bastiman. Tote: £1.70; £1.00, £1.90, £2.80. DF: £3.00. CSF: £3.12.

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Gunner Marc** (L Wyer, 10-1), 2, Cumculus (10-1), 3, Celestial Key (3-1). Finisterro (4th) 6-4 fav. 9 ran. 1¼, 1¼l. J Jefferson. Tote: £9.60; £2.30, £2.60, £1.60. DF: £42.30. CSF: £91.40.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, **Bamburgh Boy** (L Wyer, 3-1), 2, Ballad Minstrel (4-5 fav), 3, Rossel (9-2). 7 ran. 3l, 8l. T Easterby. Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £1.50. DF: £2.70. CSF: £5.07.

3.00 (3m 4f ch) 1, **Danbys Gorse** (T Siddall, 5-1); 2, Salem Beach (10-1); 3, Adamatic (7-2 fav). 8 ran. 5l, 7l. J Jefferson. Tote: £7.90; £3.20, £2.20, £1.10. DF: £15.00. CSF: £38.46. Tricast: £136.12.

3.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Forty Love** (A Dobbin, 9-1), 2, Paris Pike (10-1); 3, Mr Lurpak (6-1). Falcon du Coteau (6th) 5-1 fav. 15 ran. 2½l, 1¼l. J Goldie. Tote: £12.30; £3.80, £2.70, £1.90. DF: £54.70. Tote Trifecta: £459.50. CSF: £95.72. Tricast: £543.62.

4.00 (3m ch) 1, **Niki Dee** (R Supple, 7-4 fav); 2, Triggerfish (14-1), 3, Smiths Wynd (50-1). 7 ran. NR: Legible, Silver Pearl. 7l, 4l. P Beaumont. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £3.40. DF: £14.30. CSF: £19.51.

4.30 (3m hdle) 1, **I'm The Man** (L Cooper, 11-2); 2, Ruber (16-1); 3, Topothenorthracing (6-1). My Shenandoah (6th) 5-2 fav. 14 ran. 2½l, 6l. Mrs Dianne Sayer. Tote: £7.40; £2.50, £4.20, £1.50. DF: £86.40. CSF: £71.33. Tricast: £496.31.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £26,716.82 carried forward to Wolverhampton today).

Placepot: £31.30. Quadpot: £10.80.

Taunton

Going: good to soft

1.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Salamah** (J Osborne, 4-5 fav, **Richard Evans's nap**). 2, Explain This (11-4). 3, Father Krismas (15-2). 14 ran. 5l, 5l. C Egerton. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £2.80. CSF: £3.06.

2.10 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Lizzys First** (M A Fitzgerald, 100-30), 2, Carlys Quest (6-4 fav), 3, Guru Rinpoche (50-1). 12 ran. 3½l, 6l. B Millman. Tote: £4.90; £1.50, £1.10, £44.90. DF: £3.50. CSF: £8.20. Tricast: £198.24.

2.40 (2m 3f ch) 1, **North Kilkenny** (R Widger, 100-30), 2, Native Fling (7-4 fav); 3, Nordic Breeze (4-1). 14 ran. 7l, 2½l. R Alner. Tote: £4.90; £1.70, £1.40, £2.10. DF: £7.60. CSF: £9.52.

3.10 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **North Tyne** (A P McCoy, 9-4 jt-fav), 2, Jazz Duke (8-1), 3, Ezanak (9-4 jt-fav). 12 ran. 1½l, 7l. R Alner. Tote: £2.80; £1.90, £2.50, £1.10. DF: £74.00. CSF: £20.39.

3.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **Storm Castle** (D Gallagher, 5-4 fav), 2, Master Rastus (11-2). 3, Longstone Lad (66-1). 12 ran. Hd, 23l. D Arbuthnot. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.20, £5.20. DF: £5.80. CSF: £8.02.

4.10 (3m ch) 1, **Country Store** (R Johnson, 6-1); 2, The Cockertoo (5-6 fav); 3, Ragamuff (7-1). 8 ran. NR: Americanval. Sh hd, 3½l. M Pipe. Tote: £7.20; £1.60, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £6.90. CSF: £11.59. Tricast: £35.05.

4.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **Norlandic** (R Widger, 4-5 fav); 2, Mister Generosity (14-1). 3, Golden Arrow (12-1). 12 ran. 1¼l, 6l. P Hobbs. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £5.30, £4.20. DF: £9.40. CSF: £11.99. Tricast: £89.01.

Placepot: £8.40.

Quadpot: £3.10.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.20 (1m) 1, **Takhlid** (Miss R Clark, 7-4 fav), 2, Jubilee Scholar (7-2), 3, Dentorae (10-1). 8 ran. NR: Kalil. 1¼l, 1l. D Chapman. Tote: £3.40; £1.10, £1.40, £2.90. DF: £3.70. CSF: £6.92. Tricast: £40.52.

1.50 (1m) 1, **Melomania** (Miss C Haddow, 40-1), 2, Gadge (11-2), 3, Redoubtable (15-8 fav). 9 ran. 1½l, 4l. P Howling. Tote: £174.50; £11.60, £2.60, £1.10. DF: £409.30. CSF: £218.05. Tricast: £576.55.

2.20 (1m 2f) 1, **Orsay** (Martin Dwyer, 7-2), 2, Night City (7-4 fav), 3, Deltua (14-1). 8 ran. NR: Key To The City. 3½l, 6l. W Muir. Tote: £4.50; £1.30, £1.10, £7.00. DF: £8.60. CSF: £9.54.

2.50 (6f) 1, **Light Breeze** (R Brisland, 7-4 fav), 2, Westside Flyer (5-2), 3, Riddle (6-1). 5 ran. Hd, 1½l. G L Moore. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £1.50. DF: £6.40. CSF: £6.16.

3.20 (1m) 1, **Waiting Knight** (P McCabe, 100-30), 2, Wild Thing (5-2 fav); 3, Lucky Nemo (10-1). 7 ran. 2½l, 4l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £5.20; £2.50, £1.10. DF: £3.80. CSF: £11.21.

3.50 (6f) 1, **Aoife** (A Clark, 3-1), 2, Anokato (8-1), 3, Mukarrab (7-4 fav). 8 ran. ½l, 1½l. G Wragg. Tote: £4.50; £1.80, £2.80, £1.10. DF: £25.30. CSF: £25.62. Tricast: £49.81. After a stewards' inquiry, the placings remained unaltered.

4.20 (1m 4f) 1, **Half Tide** (R Cochrane, 2-1 fav), 2, Haydn James (5-1), 3, Harvey White (11-2). 11 ran. Nk, hd. P Mitchell. Tote: £2.30; £2.20, £1.40, £1.70. DF: £7.10. CSF: £11.58. Tricast: £45.87.

Placepot: £18.40.

Quadpot: £5.30.



By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

When the opponents are bidding on both sides of you, it is dangerous to get involved with balanced hands - your partner may have a flat Yarborough. This is an example, from the 1998 Gold Cup semi-final.

Dealer North — Love all — IMPs

North: ♠ 2 ♡ K932 ◇ K87632 ♣ 83

West: ♠ KJ10 ♡ AQJ10 ◇ A104 ♣ K107

East: ♠ 8753 ♡ 865 ◇ QJ95 ♣ J5

South: ♠ AQ964 ♡ 74 ◇ – ♣ AQ9642

W	N	E	S
–	Pass	Pass	1C
Double	1D	Pass	1S
Pass	2C	All Pass	

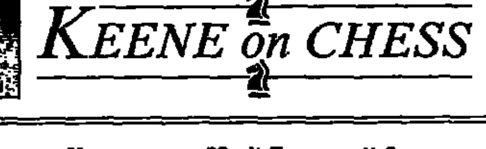
Contract: Two Clubs by South. Lead: seven of clubs.

Boris Schapiro was West. He was slightly too strong to overcall One No-Trump when South opened One Club: although that would show 15-18 points, the West hand was stronger for no-trump purposes, with the possession of all four tens. As the auction developed it was clear his partner had very little, and Boris wisely passed on his second turn (though many players would try One No-Trump). Admittedly, One No-Trump goes only one down with East's fortuitous Jx of clubs providing a second stopper.

At the other table in the Price-Cohen match, North opened Two Diamonds (weak) and South bid Two Spades, constructive but not forcing. I think the correct action for West is to pass, but he was too macho for that, and doubled. Now East-West eventually ended in Three Hearts doubled, for a penalty of 500 to North-South.

In the other semi-final Mossop as West heard his opponents compete to Four Clubs, and doubled for no very good reason. He led a club, and declarer made five tricks in clubs, one in hearts, the ace of spades, a spade ruff and two long spades. Had West not led a trump, declarer would have made one fewer trump trick and one more in spades. Mossop's opposite number in the West seat (Terry Goldsmith) wisely followed Schapiro's approach, and took no further part in the auction after doubling South's One Club opening.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Kasparov's rating gain

Garry Kasparov achieved a 2,874 rating performance in the Wijk aan Zee tournament. He will thus gain around 10 points according to the rules of the world chess federation rating system.

I conclude my coverage today of Kasparov's individual performance at the Wijk aan Zee tournament by publishing the remaining game in his total of eight wins and also the tactically sharp game against the third prize-winner Vladimir Kramnik.

White: G Kasparov
Black: R Kasimdzhanov
Wijk aan Zee 1999
Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	g3	Bg7
4	Bg2	d5
5	cxd5	Nxd5
6	e4	Nb6
7	Ne2	0-0
8	0-0	Nc6
9	d5	Na5
10	Nbc3	c6
11	b3	cxd5
12	exd5	Bg4
13	Bd2	e6
14	dxe6	Bxe6
15	Ne4	Nc6
16	Bg5	Qxd1
17	Raxd1	h6
18	Be3	Rad8
19	Nd6	Bg4
20	f3	Bc8
21	Bc5	Bf6
22	f4	Bg4
23	Ne4	Bxe2
24	Nxf6+	Kg7
25	Rxd8	Rxd8
26	Re1	Rd2
27	Ne8+	Kg8
28	Nd6	Nd7
29	Be3	Rxa2
30	Bd5	Nd8
31	b4	Rb2
32	f5	gxf5
33	Nxf5	Ne6
34	Bc1	Rb1
35	Be4	Ra1
36	Ne7+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

White: V Kramnik
Black: G Kasparov
Wijk aan Zee 1999
Semi-Slav Defence

1	Nf3	d5
2	d4	Nf6
3	c4	c6
4	Nc3	e6
5	e3	Nbd7
6	Bd3	dxc4
7	Bxc4	b5
8	Bd3	a6
9	e4	c5
10	e5	cxd4
11	Nxb5	Nxe5
12	Nxe5	axb5
13	Bxb5+	Bd7
14	Nxd7	Qa5+
15	Bd2	Qxb5
16	Nxf8	Rxf8
17	a4	Qc4
18	b3	Qd3
19	Qf3	Qe4+
20	Qxe4	Nxe4
21	b4	Ke7
22	f3	Nc3
23	Bxc3	dxc3
24	Ke2	Rfd8
25	Rhd1	c2
26	Rdc1	Rd4
27	Rxc2	Rxb4
28	a5	Draw agreed

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NITRIDING
a. De-infestation
b. Moonlighting
c. Hardening

PANTOPORIA
a. A Rabelaisian hero
b. Seasonal entertainment
c. Butterflies

GALEAZZI
a. A character in Verdi
b. An ancient siege
c. An unlucky break

LECITHIN
a. Food extract
b. Slimming tablets
c. A diamond

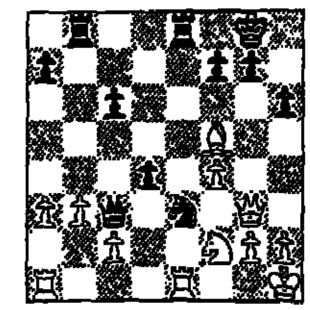
Answers on page 38

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Rozentalis — Adams, Elista Olympiad, 1998.

White has just captured a piece on f5. Black could simply recapture with his knight but does he have anything better?



Solution on page 38

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER

2.10 Jack Tanner
2.40 Crazy Crusader
3.10 Rockforce
3.40 Grangewood King
4.10 Atavistic
4.40 Distant Storm

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.40 SILK VESTMENTS.

GOING: HEAVY — SIS

2.10 SAPPHIRE & DIAMOND NOVICES CHASE (£2,697: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1 P500/0 CLASSIC IMAGE 50 (D,G) (H Manners) H Manners 9-11-5 ... O Burrows (5) –
2 012-02 FIGHTING TIMES 8 (V,F) (N Shutts) Miss K Marks 7-11-5 ... V Slattery 125
3 0/ FLEETING MANDATE 712 (Mrs P Sherwood) J S Moore 7-11-5 ... J Magee –
4 4/112/ JACK TANNER 783 (BF,G,S) (Lady Harris) Miss V Williams 10-11-5 N Williamson –
5 P-4346 SCARLET RAMBLER 61 (F) (R Burridge) R Frost 10-11-5 ... T O'Connor (7) –

BETTING: 1-3 Jack Tanner, 9-4 Fighting Times, 50-1 Fleeting Mandate, Scarlet Rambler, 66-1 Classic Image.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING.

FORM FOCUS Classic Image 81l last of 11 to Tremendisto in selling hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft); previously 77l 8th of 10 to Red Jam Jar in selling handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 5f 110yd, good). Fighting Times 8l 2nd of 5 to Fortria Rosie Dawn in novice handicap chase at Leicester (2m 1f, soft), previously 27l 8th of 10 to Krabloonik in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft). Fleeting Mandate 25l 7th of 10 to Wade Road in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft). Jack Tanner neck 2nd of 6 to Yahmi in novice hurdle grade 2 at Sandown (2m 6f, good), previously beat Make A Stand a distance in 3-runner novice hurdle grade 2 at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good). Scarlet Rambler 56l last of 6 to North Bannister in selling handicap chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good), previously 50l 4th of 12 to Oriental Boy in novice handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft)

JACK TANNER, a leading novice hurdler two seasons ago, has little to beat on his return to action

2.40 'LAVIS TRIBUTE TO 136 SPITFIRE SQDN' NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,215: 2m 6f) (11 runners)

1 064/23 BLAZING STORM 13 (B,G) (Chaddleworth Partnership II) C Egerton 7-11-10 J Osborne 79
2 0-36PP AMOTHEBAMBO 6 (B) (Mrs M Shenkin) R Baker 6-11-8 ... G Shenkin (5) 50
3 -F5PF4 SANDORAN 13 (M Hill) M Hill 6-11-0 ... R Widger (5) 55
4 F5052P CRAZY CRUSADER 34 (A Frost) D Gandolfo 7-10-12 ... D Leahy 81
5 6PU-PF OTTER RIVER 48 (O Carter) O Carter 10-10-8 ... S Burrough –
6 /6P-50 RIVER MULLIGAN 36 (B) (Trevor Heayns) N Hawke 7-10-6 ... A Maguire –
7 P-56FP VEILED DANCER 33 (N Holdsworth) R Frost 6-10-3 ... Mr A Holdsworth 82
8 54-P54 CHERRY PIE 30 (D Barry) J Mullins 7-10-0 ... A Bates (3) 78
9 0P-5P FLICKERING LIGHT 36 (Mrs J Hawkins) Mrs J Hawkins 8-10-0 ... J Magee 56
10 3-P005 MUSIC CLASS 36 (B) (Horses Away Racing Club) R Baker 8-10-0 ... V Slattery –
11 -04023 REMEMBER STAR 8 (G Duckhaven Stud) A D Smith 6-10-0 ... G Supple (3) 71

Long handicap: Cherry Pie 9-13, Flickering Light 9-11, Music Class 9-8, Remember Star 9-8.

BETTING: 7-4 Blazing Storm, 9-2 Crazy Crusader, 6-1 Remember Star, 7-1 Cherry Pie, 8-1 Veiled Dancer, 10-1 Sandoran, 16-1 Amothebambo, River Mulligan, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Blazing Storm 24l 3rd of 13 to Tap On Tootsie in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (3m 2f 110yd, soft), previously 18l 2nd of 10 to Castle Owen in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft). Sandoran beaten a distance 4th of 8 to Santabless in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). Crazy Crusader pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, soft), previously 1½l 2nd of 14 to Granby Bell in novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Cherry Pie 51l 4th of 5 to Saleel in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy), previously beaten a distance 5th of 13 to Kingsmark in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy). Music Class 46l 5th of 11 to Top Skipper in selling handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to soft) with River Mulligan (11lb better off) beaten a distance 7th and Flickering Light (levels) pulled up. Remember Star 9½l 3rd of 5 to Fortria Rosie Dawn in novice handicap chase at Leicester (2m 1f, soft), previously 13l 2nd of 4 to Round Robin in selling hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft).

BLAZING STORM has run well in defeat his two starts this season and promises to go close here

3.10 LAVIS MEDICAL SYSTEMS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,599: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 40211 ROCKFORCE 13 (D,S) (G Mizel) P Nicholls 7-11-11 ... J Tizzard 98
2 PU4414 ROBINS PRIDE 21 (BF,D,G,S) (R Weeks) C Popham 9-11-9 ... R Farrant 87
3 0-3110 ELEGANT DES COSSES 48 (B,BF,G,S) (R J B Partners) P Hobbs 7-11-1 R Dunwoody –
4 41-PP5 HOLD YOUR RANKS 33 (C,S) (Mrs C Loze) R Frost 12-11-1 ... J Frost 96
5 /2-PU5 NORTHERN SINGER 29 (D,F,G,S) (J Panes) R Hodges 9-10-2 ... C Maude –
6 -44422 NORTHERN SADDLER 6 (CD,F,G,S) (R Hodges) R Hodges 12-10-1 ... R Johnson 118
7 UP-42P BENJAMIN LANCASTER 16 (C,D,G,S) (M Griffin) M Griffin 15-10-0 ... A Maguire 59

Long handicap: Benjamin Lancaster 9-6.

BETTING: 6-4 Rockforce, 3-1 Elegant Des Cosses, 5-1 Northern Saddler, 7-1 Robins Pride, 8-1 Hold Your Ranks, 16-1 Northern Singer, 20-1 Benjamin Lancaster.

FORM FOCUS Rockforce beat Baltybay 3½l in 8-runner novice handicap chase at Ludlow (2m, good to soft), previously beat Brassis Hill a distance in 7-runner maiden chase at Folkestone (2m, soft). Robins Pride 23l 4th of 5 to Buckland Lad in handicap chase at Kempton (2m, heavy), previously beat Morstock 9l in 5-runner handicap chase at Wincanton (2m, heavy). Elegant Des Cosses 38l 8th of 11 to Lizzys First in novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, soft), previously beat The Boozing Brief neck in 8-runner ladies handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft). Hold Your Ranks 36l 5th of 9 to Saxon Duke in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, heavy). Northern Saddler 7l 2nd of 5 to O My Love in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft); previously 4l 2nd of 7 to Country Star in handicap chase at Fakenham (2m 110yd, soft) with Northern Singer (5lb better off) beaten a distance 5th. Benjamin Lancaster pulled up in handicap chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, heavy), previously 3½l 2nd of 5 to Another Deadly in handicap chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, heavy)

ROCKFORCE scored easily latest and, off a 6lb higher mark, remains ahead of the handicapper

3.40 BANANA BOAT NH NOVICES HURDLE (£2,173: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

1 00/P-5 BABY LANCASTER 28 (M Griffin) M Griffin 8-11-5 ... M Griffiths (5) –
2 GRANGEWOOD KING (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 6-11-5 ... A P McCoy –
3 05 MAINLIER 23 (G Spencer) M Pipe 5-11-5 ... C Maude 53
4 100 MR PERFECTA 75 (D,F) (B Burnard) R Frost 6-11-5 ... J Frost 19
5 06- WILLET WIZARD 331 (D Stephens) Miss V Stephens 6-11-5 ... Miss V Stephens –
6 30-0 GRANNY RICH 76 (P Rich) P Rich 5-11-0 ... W Marston –
7 1P3/PP MILES MORE FUN 33 (G,S) (M Hill) M Hill 10-11-0 ... R Widger (5) –
8 02-322 SILK VESTMENTS 39 (BF) (Mrs J Dibben) Miss V Williams 7-11-0 ... N Williamson 82

BETTING: 1-2 Silk Vestments, 7-2 Grangewood King, 7-1 Mainlier, 12-1 Mr Perfecta, 33-1 Willet Wizard, Granny Rich, 50-1 Baby Lancaster, 66-1 Miles More Fun.

FORM FOCUS Baby Lancaster beaten a distance 5th of 6 to Gladiateur IV in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). Grangewood King: King's Ride gelding, first foal of dam placed in bumpers in Ireland. Mainlier 28l 5th of 15 to Homme De Fer in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft), previously 26l 7th of 15 to Gunnerblong in national hunt flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to soft). Mr Perfecta 22l 7th of 11 to Elegant Des Cosses in novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f, good to soft), previously 53l 8th of 10 to Fu's Baby in national hunt flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft). Willet Wizard beaten a distance 6th of 8 to Perfect Fellow in national hunt flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft), previously beaten a distance 14th of 15 to Sunday Venture in national hunt flat race at Ludlow (2m, good). Granny Rich 39l 12th of 18 to Artadoin Lad in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good), previously 69l 14th of 16 to Belisario in national hunt flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, soft). Silk Vestments neck 2nd of 7 to My Tern in mares novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, heavy), previously 5l 2nd of 6 to Time For A Glass in mares novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, heavy)

SILK VESTMENTS looks to have been found a winning opportunity by her shrewd handler

4.10 WINNING POST RESTAURANT NOVICES CHASE (£2,684: 3m 2f 110yd) (4 runners)

1 614-14 RICH TYCOON 46 (BF,S) (P Rich) P Rich 10-12-0 ... M Griffiths (5) 93
2 3F/121 ATAVISTIC 21 (G,S) (Mrs J Emery, A Staple & E Morris) P Hobbs 7-11-7 R Dunwoody –
3 0/1-FF CHRISTCHURCH 25 (G) (D Brean) J S Moore 9-11-7 ... J Magee –
4 033224 DIVINE CHANCE 6 (G,S) (M Churches) M Churches 11-11-7 ... Mr J D Moore (7) 90

BETTING: 11-8 Christchurch, 7-4 Atavistic, 3-1 Rich Tycoon, 16-1 Divine Chance

FORM FOCUS Rich Tycoon beaten a distance 4th of 10 to Fortytwo Dee in novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 5f, heavy), previously beat Minella Derby 1l in 7-runner novice handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). Atavistic beat Smith Too 3½l in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m 110yd, heavy), previously 2l 2nd of 4 to Dom Beltrano in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, soft). Christchurch fell in novice chase at Warwick (3m 4f 110yd, soft), beat Red Curate 6l in 9-runner maiden hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good) on final start last season. Divine Chance beaten a distance 4th of 7 to Dancetillyoudrop in amateur handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, soft), previously 20l 2nd of 10 to Holdimclose in novice chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, heavy)

ATAVISTIC makes the switch to chasing in fine heart and should prevail with a clear round

4.40 IRISH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,243: 2m 1f) (7 runners)

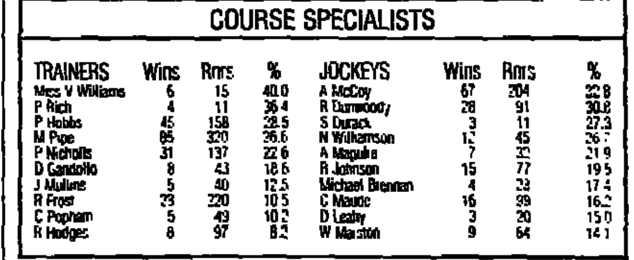
1 423P23 DISTANT STORM 13 (B,D,G,S) (D Driscoll) B Llewellyn 6-12-0 ... Michael Brennan 86
2 /2/5P- MEAD COURT 338 (BF,D,S) (H Manners) H Manners 9-11-8 ... O Burrows 50
3 033-P4 ISIS DAWN 6 (S) (Major B Daveli) P Hobbs 7-11-7 ... R Widger 88
4 -3P333 GLACIAL MISSILE 30 (R Owen) P Bowen 6-11-7 ... S Durack 57
5 556333 HIGH LOW 13 (D,F,S) (I Jones) I Jones 11-10-12 ... J Mogford (3) 89
6 045 CARIAD CYMRU 14 (Mrs R Evans) R Evans 5-10-8 ... O McPhail 74
7 0000-P KARACHI 33 (R Frost) R Frost 9-10-0 ... T O'Connor (3) –

Long handicap: Karachi 9-1

BETTING: 5-2 Isis Dawn, 11-4 Distant Storm, 3-1 High Low, 4-1 Glacial Missile, 12-1 Cariad Cymru, 16-1 Mead Court, 50-1 Karachi

FORM FOCUS Distant Storm 5½l 3rd of 7 to Vent D'Aout in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, heavy), previously 1½l 2nd of 4 to Topanga in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Mead Court pulled up in selling handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good), previously 34l 5th of 11 to Eben Al Habeeb in handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). Isis Dawn 2½l 4th of 12 to Seize The Day in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft). Glacial Missile 9½l 3rd of 7 to Inclination in mares handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy), previously beaten a distance 3rd of 15 to Homme De Fer in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good). High Low 2½l 3rd of 19 to Cobie in selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, soft), previously 15l 3rd of 7 to Bowcliffe Court in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft). Cariad Cymru 21l 5th of 17 to Gemstone in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft), previously 9l 4th of 10 to Prussia in selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m, soft). Karachi pulled up in selling handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, heavy), previously 40l 11th of 19 to Dinky Dora in novice handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good to firm)

DISTANT STORM has proved most consistent this season and may now gain a deserved success

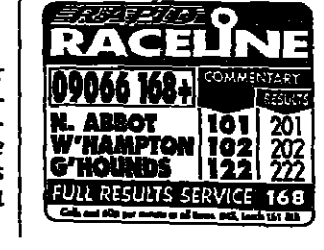


COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
Mrs V Williams	6	15	40.0	A McCoy	67	204	32.8
P Rich	4	11	36.4	R Dunwoody	28	91	30.8
P Hobbs	45	158	28.5	S Durack	3	11	27.3
M Pipe	85	320	26.6	N Williamson	12	45	26.7
P Nicholls	31	137	22.6	A Maguire	7	32	21.9
D Gandolfo	8	43	18.6	R Johnson	15	77	19.5
J Mullins	5	40	12.5	Michael Brennan	4	23	17.4
R Frost	23	220	10.5	C Maude	16	99	16.2
C Popham	5	49	10.2	D Leahy	3	20	15.0
R Hodges	8	97	8.2	W Marston	9	64	14.1

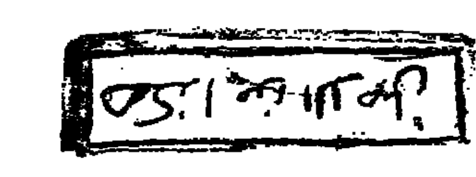
Leicester lost

THE meeting scheduled for Leicester today was abandoned yesterday after the hurdles course was found to be waterlogged. The fixture is the 24th this season to be lost to the weather.



Blinkered first time

Wolverhampton: 2.00 Love Opera. 4.30 Cantgetyourbreath, Polly Mills. **Newton Abbot:** 2.40 Blazing Storm, Amothebambo, River Mulligan.



Oliver Holt, football correspondent, welcomes the departure of a flawed England coach

No cause for mourning



Good times: Hoddle is embraced by Ian Wright after England had qualified for the World Cup finals with a famous draw against Italy in Rome. Photographs: Marc Aspland

This is not a time for crocodile tears, nor for crowing, but in the case of the departure of Glenn Hoddle from his job as the England coach last night there is some cause for rejoicing.

Hoddle's bizarre spiritual tenets often seemed to make the national team a laughing stock and his management style made training at Bisham Abbey before international duty, in the words of one bewildered player, "like joining the Moonies". Matters were not improved by his association with Eileen Drewery, a former pub landlady. But controversial though their views were, none of these faults would have produced the overwhelming sense of relief that most England supporters must feel today. They should rejoice not because they are rid of a man who often seemed arrogant, but because England are rid of a manager who was wasting the best generation of footballers this country has produced since 1970.

> 'At least there is a chance of success now'

Optimism should be everywhere. England have world-class players such as Michael Owen, David Beckham, Sol Campbell and Rio Ferdinand established in the FA Carling Premiership. A battery of new players — including Wes Brown, Gareth Barry and Joe Cole — is coming through and they play with almost alarming precocity.

If Terry Venables had remained in charge — and many of the players spoke wistfully of his days at the helm — he would surely have built on the progress that England made before and during the 1996 European championship and turned the team into genuine contenders for the World Cup in France last summer.

It was England's misfortune that Hoddle seemed to panic during the World Cup finals. He had a potent mix of youth and experience, players such as Paul Ince, Tony Adams and Alan Shearer, to anchor the stellar talents of Owen, Beckham and Campbell. His misuse of them and his obsession with his own image was agonising to watch.

The dismissal of Beckham in the second-round match against Argentina in St Etienne allowed Hoddle to deflect the blame for England's early exit on to a man whom he had treated abominably throughout the tournament. In fact, it was Hoddle's capriciousness, his treatment of the Manchester United midfield player in training on the very day of the Argentina game, that contributed to Beckham's fragile state of mind that night.

It was Hoddle's questionable judgment that made him persevere with Teddy Sheringham as a partner for Shearer when it was achingly obvious that Owen was the better choice. That error probably cost England victory against Romania and condemned the side to the early meeting with Gabriel Batistuta and company.

Yet Hoddle returned from France as if he had won the World Cup, not masterminded a knockout at the same stage as Paraguay. His conceit seemed actually to grow, but, by now, the players were beginning to become uneasy.

Ferdinand, the most creative defender that England have had since Bobby Moore, is thought to have suffered grievously in this respect. Defenders, in particular, found themselves the butt of Hoddle's criticism. Graeme Le Saux was made to carry the can for the defeat against Romania, Campbell for the qualifying loss to Italy at Wembley. Both kept their counsel in public and seethed in private.

By the time that England went to Sweden to start their European championship qualifying campaign at the beginning of September, the players' faith in the manager had ebbed away and suddenly a side that could have won the World Cup with the right guidance was playing like a pub team. No one would criticise Hoddle in public, but, in private, several senior players were vociferous.

Even if Hoddle had not regaled us with his views on reincarnation, that situation could only have worsened. Morale was so low that England would have been highly vulnerable against Poland at Wembley at the end of next month. Defeat then, and their hopes of qualifying for the finals of the European championship would have been all but over. It will still be an uphill struggle, but at least there is a chance of success now.

Hoddle would not have turned things around. He thought he was enlightening with his views, but his players were not impressed. In his last clutch of games — the draw against Bulgaria and the stuttering win over Luxembourg — they seemed hardly able to bring themselves to play for him.

Nor did he surround himself with the kind of staff members who might have told him when he was wrong.

He has gone now and the energy and the guilt that many of us felt in criticising his England can, at last, be put to more positive effect.

HOW HODDLE COMPARES TO OTHER ENGLAND MANAGERS

Glenn Hoddle	(1996-99)	28	17	6	5	42	13
Terry Venables	(1994-96)	23	11	11	1	35	13
Graham Taylor	(1990-93)	38	18	13	7	62	32
Bobby Robson	(1982-90)	95	47	30	18	154	60
Ron Greenwood	(1977-82)	55	33	12	10	93	40



Owen: great talent



Bad times: Beckham is dismissed against Argentina and Hoddle and England bow out of France 98

The gifts, glory and the gaffes

HODDLE'S LIFE AND TIMES

AS A player, Glenn Hoddle was blessed with sublime touch and control, his feet as eloquent as any in football. As a man and a manager, Hoddle has never been able to exercise the same control over his life or, more important, his image.

Perhaps, as he might see it, it was his destiny never to fulfil completely the promise he showed, first as a player with Tottenham Hotspur, later as a manager whose coaching skills seemed heaven-sent to an England team crying out for the leadership to elevate them to a place among the elite.

So who is Glenn Hoddle, and how did his career spiral out of control at such a giddy rate?

The man:

Born in 1957 in Hayes, Middlesex, Hoddle was immersed in football as a child and signed for Spurs as an apprentice in 1974. A year later he turned professional and seemed destined for a gilded career. Clean-cut, polite and with extravagant skill, he was idolised by fans and their parents alike. The image was cemented with an apparently happy family life with his wife, Christine, and three children. A move to AS Monaco, coached by Arsène Wenger, identified him as the cosmopolitan sophisticate, able to adapt — unlike so many English footballers — to life abroad.

The player:

Hoddle became established as one of the best midfield players in Europe, scoring on his debut for Spurs in 1976 and also for England in 1979, against Bulgaria. He twice won the FA Cup with Spurs and played his last match for them in the 1987 FA Cup Final, losing to Coventry City, before moving to Monaco, where he won the French title. Although he gained 53 England caps, his international career never fulfilled its potential. He was often seen as a luxury that the team could not afford.

The manager:

Joined Swindon Town as player-manager in 1991, taking them to the Premier League within two years. He was lured to Chelsea by Ken Bates, taking them to the 1994 Cup Final before the England job came in 1996 after the departure of Terry Venables. A successful start saw England qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals with a 0-0 draw against Italy in Rome, but they went out in the second round after a troubled tournament that started with Paul Gascoigne being controversially omitted and ended with David Batty missing in the penalty shoot-out against Argentina, after which it was disclosed that the team had not practised taking penalties.

The gaffes:

A television commercial for a breakfast cereal, featuring Hoddle with his family, had to be withdrawn after he left his wife. His relationship with Eileen Drewery, his faith-healing guru, raised eyebrows and dented his credibility with the media. He was accused of betraying his players when he published his World Cup diary, later serialised in *The Sun*.

Controversy continued to dog the England coach when details of an alleged row with Alan Shearer over the team's tactics in a win against Luxembourg surfaced in October. But that was just the precursor to his remarks last week and the furore that followed.

KEVIN EASON

ENGLAND MATCH-BY-MATCH UNDER GLENN HODDLE

WCQ: World Cup qualifier. T: Tournoi de France. WC: World Cup finals. ECQ: European Championship qualifier.

1996						
Sept 1	Moldova	0	England	3	(Barmby, Shearer, Gascoigne)	WCQ
Oct 9	England	2	Poland	1	(Shearer 2)	WCQ
Nov 9	Georgia	0	England	2	(Ferdinand, Sheringham)	WCQ
1997						
Feb 2	England	0	Italy	1		WCQ
Mar 29	England	2	Mexico	0	(Sheringham pen, Fowler)	
Apr 30	England	2	Georgia	0	(Shearer, Sheringham)	WCQ
May 24	England	2	S Africa	1	(Lee, Wright)	
May 31	Poland	0	England	2	(Shearer, Sheringham)	
June 4	England	2	Italy	0	(Wright, Scholes)	T
June 7	France	0	England	1	(Shearer)	T
June 10	Brazil	1	England	0		T
Sep 10	England	4	Moldova	0	(Wright 2, Gascoigne, Scholes)	WCQ
Oct 11	Italy	0	England	0		WCQ
Nov 18	England	2	Cameroon	0	(Scholes, Fowler)	
1998						
Feb 2	England	0	Chile	2		
Mar 25	Switzerland	1	England	1	(Merson)	
April 22	England	3	Portugal	0	(Sheringham, Shearer 2)	
May 23	England	0	S Arabia	0		
May 27	Morocco	0	England	1	(Owen)	
May 29	Belgium	0	England	0		
June 6	England	2	Tunisia	0	(Shearer, Scholes)	WC
June 22	Romania	2	England	1	(Owen)	WC
June 26	England	2	Colombia	0	(Anderton, Beckham)	WC
June 30	England	2	Argentina	2	(Shearer pen, Owen)	WC
Sept 5	Sweden	2	England	1	(Shearer)	ECQ
Oct 10	England	0	Bulgaria	0		ECQ
Oct 14	Luxembourg	0	England	3	(Shearer pen, Owen, Southgate)	ECQ
Oct 18	England	2	Czech Rep	0	(Scholes, Merson)	

LEADING GOALSCORERS: 12: Shearer. 5: Sheringham, Scholes. 4: Owen, Wright.

Robson thwarted as Juninho stays put

HIS original signing had been pure theatre, stepping out at the Riverside Stadium to a backdrop of Latin drums and screaming children, as if Middlesbrough could not quite grasp that the fantasy was real (George Caulkin writes). The only nod to the artistic world last night was old-fashioned British farce, as Juninho's proposed £10.5 million return to the FA Carling Premiership club collapsed in confusion and acrimony.

The upshot — only hours after Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, had gone so far as to discuss fielding his former player within "a couple of weeks" — is that the Brazil international will be remaining at his present club, Atlético Madrid, at least until the summer. The precise reasons for such a significant turnabout appear to centre on Juninho's fragile state of mind. "I'm very confused," he said. "One minute I'm staying, the next I'm going." He confirmed he would not be leaving Spain until the end of the season, but his long-term future is no closer to resolution.

On the face of it, Juninho, who left Middlesbrough for Madrid in a £12.5 million deal two years ago, has good cause to be bewildered. Arrigo Sacchi, the Atlético coach, told Juninho that he played no part in his plans and he has been content to leave him on the substitutes' bench for much of the season — only to insist last week "I want him to stay". By then, Juninho had been in negotiation with Middlesbrough as well as Aston Villa. Both clubs thought they had secured his services.

Oxford United, the Nationwide League division one club struggling to stay afloat financially, have been given a boost. Firoz Kassam, a wealthy hotelier, will provide £1 million to buy the club after the resignation yesterday of Keith Cox, the managing director — giving them a lifeline until at least March 31.

Platt is left floored by Sampdoria's obstacles

THE long hours of Lancaster Gate indecision yesterday were more than enough for another son of England's managerial carousel. David Platt, to pack his bags and come home (Rob Hughes writes). At 32, and barely two months into his job as coach to the Italian club, Sampdoria, Platt decided the struggle was too unequal.

The sudden elevation of Platt to management in Serie A was ludicrous. He may have spent months after finishing his playing days with Arsenal studying all the things that make a coach. But he had neither licence nor experience, and the brotherhood of Italy's coaches refused to allow him to break their code that says the proof of management is sacrosanct.

One hopes he came out of it with plenty of fire, because it was Sampdoria's error, not his, to offer a 2½-year contract to an unqualified young man. That error, perpetrated by Enrico Mantovani, suggests that in Genoa the son is not as worldly wise as the father. The late Paolo Mantovani had been a remarkable figure, a self-made billionaire in oil and shipping, and a football lover who had nursed his beloved Sampdoria from the third division to a place in Europe. When Enrico Mantovani saw this status threatened, he panicked, or he dreamt.

He hired Platt, who was forbidden to be called coach, who was not allowed on the touchline or the bench, and who attempted for six unfortunate games to instil whatever he knows about football into players too close to him in age, by remote control. Sampdoria sagged, and yesterday Platt admitted: "I could have done with fewer obstacles in my way. I sensed that the bureaucratic problems were going to get worse, and because of my affection for Sampdoria, I felt that the best solution would be to make a swift decision and enable a qualified Italian coach to be appointed immediately."

RICHARD CANNON





Hadden, of Ardingly, brings down Nasrallah and concedes what turned out to be the decisive penalty

Bodenham takes charge

Hampton 2
Ardingly 0

By Mel Webb

FROM the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium to a schools playing-field in the outer suburbs of London: this was the culture shock to end them all. Once one of England's most highly respected referees, Martin Bodenham, who retired from big-time football at the end of last season, yesterday trod an infinitely humbler stage, but little he did in a distinguished career could have put him in touch with more passion than was abroad on this day.

Bodenham was at Hampton School to take charge of the semi-final of the Boodle and Dunthorpe Cup, the national competition for independent schools. His last showpiece appointment was the Coca-Cola Cup final between Middlesbrough and Leicester City at Wembley in 1997; an occasion to remember though that must have been, the presence of 800 baying schoolboys on the touchline produced more than the odd *frisson* down the backbone in this game, too.

Hampton climbed into their task with some relish from the very early stages and shook Ardingly by taking the lead after ten minutes. Stone sparked things off with a weaving run, the Ardingly defence dithered fatally and Naidu poked the ball across the face of the goal for Sexton to move in unopposed and turn the ball past a hopelessly exposed Powell.

Stone made it two with a penalty five minutes after the break, after Hadden had brought Nasrallah down. Paradoxically, the goal brought out the best in Ardingly, who laid seige on Hampton for the rest of the game, but, with Comber outstanding in the latter stages, the home side held out.

Hampton will play in their first Boodle and Dunthorne final against Wolverhampton Grammar School, who beat Repton on penalties after a 3-3 draw after extra time last week.

HAMPTON (4-4-2): J Comber — R Dixon, M Waldron, Chun Yip Chow (sub: T Jackson, 55min), D Sims — B Naidu, K Warren, A Stone, A Nasrallah — A Fleming, M Sexton (sub: J Kinghorn, 68).
ARDINGLY (4-4-2): D Powell — M Forsyth, A Virgo, P Hadden (sub: P Evans, 48), Y Mihata — C Christophers, B Dougal, F Cornwall, T Swann — C Darkes, D Menzies.
Referee: M Bodenham.

McRae criticises Ford after losing points



McRae: unhappy

BY JEREMY HART

COLIN McRAE described as a "kick in the guts" the decision yesterday by the FIA, motor sport's governing body, to exclude him and his Ford team from third place in the Monte Carlo Rally last month.

The Ford team took part in the rally under appeal after the water pump on their new Focus car was considered to be illegal by technical experts just hours before the start. At the appeal hearing in Paris yesterday, the four drivers' and manufacturers' points that the team scored for an unexpected podium position were annulled.

"I am gutted," McRae said last night. "I am definitely not happy about the situation and I am very disappointed to lose the four points from Monte after a great drive. This whole situation is not acceptable. There has been a major mistake made by the engineers and it is a kick in the guts, after all the effort I have put in, to have it all taken away."

Although Ford and McRae have had their points taken away, they escaped without an expected fine of around £400,000. The FIA judged that the team had not tried to cheat and did not deserve to be fined. The team will have to pay court costs, however, which are expected to be around £100,000.

"We believed there was a loophole in the regulations and went for it," Martin Whitaker, Ford's director of European motorsport, said. "All the time we believed the design of the water pump was within the regulations. Of course, like Colin, we are disappointed. But since Monte Carlo we have been working on a solution. We have a solution, but before Sweden next week we must fine-tune it."

Although Ford have a stop-gap pump ready for the start of the second round of the world championship in Karlstad, they are still hoping for a change in the sport's regulations. The teams and the FIA technical working group will meet in Paris tomorrow and Friday. If Ford can persuade the rest of the teams to support the use of unlimited water pumps then they will be able to continue using their modified unit.

"We accept the decision of the FIA," Whitaker said. "But the final conclusion will only be made at the meetings later this week. It is still our intention to lobby the other manufacturers to change the regulations and allow the freedom of water pumps."

McRae surprised observers during the rally by recording the fastest times on four of the special stages in finishing third behind Tommi Makinen, the world champion, and Juha Kankkunen. Ford denied that the pump gave their new car added performance in its debut event. Most of their rivals disagreed, however. "We are unhappy about the regulations being changed," a Toyota spokesman said. "It is for the FIA to decide finally. Of course, it would not be good for the sport if Ford are not in, but it would be more damaging if they run with what appears to be an illegal car."

If the teams reject Ford's advances and their new car is not allowed to compete, the team will have to revert to their standard water pump in Sweden. With a 300-horsepower engine and a pump designed to cope with a third as much power, the union could be short-lived. "We will be in Sweden and confident of doing well," Whitaker said. "Our engineers are busy working on the solution for the pump and we will run the rally regardless."

For McRae, the disappointment of driving a car that is likely to be severely slowed by a standard water pump, is a far cry from the enthusiasm he showed for the Focus on its launch. "I am disappointed in Ford and M-Sport [the team's preparation company run by Malcolm Wilson, the former British champion]," McRae said. "It is not acceptable. This should have been a simple homologation issue."

Despite the attack on the apparent mistakes made by Ford, McRae has no regrets about leaving Subaru (for whom he won a world title in 1995) for the much-hyped and rejuvenated Ford team.

"It was the right decision but you don't think about things like that, do you?" McRae said. "But now we must come back and be successful again. I just don't know at the moment when that will be."

OLYMPIC GAMES

Banks appeals for IOC reform

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN LAUSANNE

TONY BANKS, the Minister for Sport, strongly criticised the Olympic movement yesterday, attacking its lack of democracy and saying that the British Government expected it to "clean up its act". Banks urged the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to reform itself, saying that it did not have the "sort of structure" for the 21st century.

Barry McCaffrey, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy in the United States, also urged the IOC to become a democratic and accountable public institution. He said: "Its procedures must be based on open books and records, open and recorded votes on issues and an elected membership that is accountable to the athletes and community of nations."

The views of Banks and McCaffrey, in their addresses to hundreds of other leading figures in international sport here at the world conference on doping, will increase the pressure on Juan Antonio Samaranch to resign as the IOC president. After 19 years in the post, Samaranch will ask for a vote of confidence from his fellow members at an extraordinary IOC session on March 17 and 18.

During his six-minute speech, Banks said: "There is now no room for a cosmetic exercise on the issue of doping. The reputation of the IOC is once again on the line."

He added that the IOC had called for a special regime for sport. "However, international sports bodies have responsibilities as well as rights," he said. "Their internal systems of organisation and election must be based on democracy, accountability and honesty. We cannot even consider a special regime for sport unless these basic requirements are met."

Banks said later that he believed there was no substitute for elections, although it was not clear who would do the voting and who would be eligible to become an IOC member. At the moment the 112-member IOC is a self-electing oligarchy.

The IOC and Samaranch, in particular, have come under fire because of the "votes for favours" scandal. Four IOC members resigned ten days ago and five others were recommended for expulsion over the vote for Salt Lake City to stage the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Britain is renowned for its rigorous anti-doping practices and Banks said: "We are not prepared to lower our standards."

CRICKET

Taylor declares to join ranks of Test match greats

Michael Henderson hears one of Australia's favourite sporting sons end his international career at the top

ONE of the truly great careers ended yesterday when Mark Taylor, the captain of Australia, announced his retirement from international cricket. It was not a startling revelation. Taylor, 34, had intimated that he was approaching the end, but his formal disclosure will give the Australian Cricket Board something to mull over before it appoints a successor.

"I have always thought that nobody is bigger than the game," Taylor said. "I made this decision from a playing point of view. I have felt that since Adelaide [where Australia retained the Ashes] I have lost the urge to play Test cricket, and if I have lost that then I don't have the right to be in the side." Australia go to the West Indies for a four-Test tour later this month.

"I am quite happy," Taylor said. "I achieved more than I thought I ever would, as a player and a captain. I loved playing the game, made a lot of friends and would like to stay around it, to see how other people go." Taylor, who has already worked as a television summariser, can expect a lot more work in that quarter.

At face value his record is outstanding. Since he took over the leadership of a winning team in September 1994 it has grown steadily stronger. He lost his first series, in Pakistan, but then led Australia to victory in the West Indies, South Africa, England and, last autumn, Pakistan. Only Clive Lloyd, the captain of the all-powerful West Indies team in the 1980s, has beaten so many opponents overseas.

On a personal level, Taylor also passed with distinction. Allan Border, his predecessor, is the only Australian batsman to have made more than his 7,525 runs. That aggregate includes 19 hundreds, made against every Test-playing country except Zimbabwe, and no fewer than six against England. No compatriot, not even Bradman, has surpassed the 334 not out he made against Pakistan last October.

At a slip fielder he is one of the greatest in the game's history. In what turned out to be his final Test, against England at Sydney — his home ground — last month, he held his 157th catch to establish a Test record, overtaking the one that Border had set. He snaffled most of them at first slip.

He led Australia in 50 of his 104 Tests, winning 26 of them, and lost series only in Pakistan and India. Under his captaincy Australia moved far ahead of the pack, playing winning cricket in an attractive way. He has been as good as his word, because he leaves a better team than the one he inherited. He is proud of his achievements and yet he emphasised that the game had given him so much. "I have gained more from cricket than I have given to it," he said. Last week he was named Australian of the Year, an honour that does not fall off any old gum-tree.



> 'I have gained more from the game than I have given to it'

That is not quite the full story. Australia were a pretty brazen team when he took over and, although nobody would mistake them for a choir of angels, there is less undecorous behaviour these days. Nor has the change diminished their effectiveness. In the past six months they have won in Pakistan without Shane Warne, their great match-winning wrist spinner, and defeated England when Warne played only one Test. It is an immensely strong and well-balanced side.

His reputation acquired stratospheric heights when he equalled Bradman's 334 and declared. Nobody can begrudge him a farthing because he is transparently honest, selfless and committed to the game. That was never more apparent than in England two summers ago, when he began the tour under the darkest of clouds and ended it in clover. As player and captain he featured in six series against England and won the lot, but the 1997 triumph was the sweetest.

Australia were in peril at the beginning of that rubber. They had lost all three one-day internationals and their captain could not buy a run anywhere. When he failed in the first innings at Edgbaston he was as close to falling on his sword as a captain can be.

Instead he gritted his teeth, made a hundred and, although Australia lost the match, his players gathered confidence from his example that enabled them to win the series hands down. It was the innings of fortitude by a man blessed with a noble character. Ahead even of that 334 not out, it will be his testimonial.

Australia now have a ticklish problem: who succeeds him? Steve Waugh is the favourite, though Warne has shown real flair in leading the one-day team. Mark Waugh also has his admirers. Taylor would not be drawn on the matter. He rates them all and thinks any one of them would do a good job.

They have all learnt from him and could not have wished for a better mentor. "I have never been much into grandstanding," he said yesterday. "I don't see myself as anything special." Good. It makes it easier for others to say it on his behalf. Taylor's career is an example that modesty and high talent are not mutually exclusive; that it is possible to succeed without resorting to vainglory, and to make a perceptible contribution to a team, and a game, by remaining its servant.

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



TWO 16-year-old leg spinners, Matthew Gitsham, left, from Somerset, and Geraint Bowers, from Glamorgan, have been chosen to spend a month in Australia, where they will be coached by Terry Jenner (Ivo Tennant writes). This has been made possible by funding from the Brian Johnston Memorial Trust. The Trust, which was set up in memory of the late commentator, will be spending £6,000 on Gitsham and Bowers, who were chosen from 300 candidates. They will be coached for nine hours a day at the Australian Academy under the supervision of Jenner, who has worked closely with Shane Warne, the Australia leg spinner, and Ian Salisbury, the England player. This initiative will continue each year in conjunction with the England and Wales Cricket Board. First-class counties nominate leg spinners once they are 11 years old and coaching sessions are then held at four regional centres. Gitsham has played for Somerset second XI and Bowers captained Wales Under-16 last year. They will go to Australia for coaching in mid-April — with the blessing of their headmasters — after a fortnight of cricket with their schools in Barbados. Watching them in the indoor school at Lord's yesterday was Robin Hobbs, the former Essex and England leg spinner, who said how important it was that pitches should be prepared by groundsmen with spinners in mind. "We should be playing on uncovered surfaces," he said.

Zimbabwe in trouble as Thomas hits form

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN HARARE

HARARE (first day of five; England A won toss): Zimbabwe A have scored 63 for five wickets against England A

ENGLAND A were given only 23 overs to make an impression on the opening day of the first "Test" in Harare, yet captured five Zimbabwe A wickets. Darren Thomas and Melvyn Betts combined effectively to run through the home side's top order. Helped by two exceptional catches by Graeme Swann and one significant dose of good fortune, England have Zimbabwe reeling at 63 for five.

With Michael Vaughan inserting the opposition after a delayed start through rain, Betts made an early breakthrough. When Thomas was given his chance, two of his first three balls were driven to the boundary.

Shortly after came the stroke of luck, Craig Wishart treading on his leg stump when setting off for a single. Thomas followed that by getting one to lift and leave Dirk Viljoen for Chris Read to take his second catch. The dismissal of the day came when Whittall drove at Betts only for Swann to grasp a one-handed catch. Thomas finished with the dismissal of Donald Campbell, also caught by Swann.

ZIMBABWE A: First Innings

T N Madondo c Read b Betts	8
C B Wishart hit wicket b Thomas	5
G J Whittall c Swann b Betts	24
D P Viljoen c Read b Thomas	6
S V Carlisle not out	9
†D J R Campbell c Swann b Thomas	3
A M Blignaut not out	0
Extras (lb 2, nb 6)	8
Total (5 wkts)	63

B C Strang, *A R Whittall, A Huckle and E Matambanadzo to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-32, 3-45, 4-54, 5-58

BOWLING: Betts 9-1-30-2, Flintoff 7-5-7-0, Thomas 7-1-24-3

Umpires: I D Robinson and F C Barbour

Logan cements recovery

FROM JOHN STERN IN NEW PLYMOUTH

NEW PLYMOUTH (first day of four; England Under-19 won toss): New Zealand Under-19, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 273 runs behind England Under-19

ENGLAND Under-19 ended the opening day of the three-match series against New Zealand in a happier frame of mind after appearing to have wasted their opportunities.

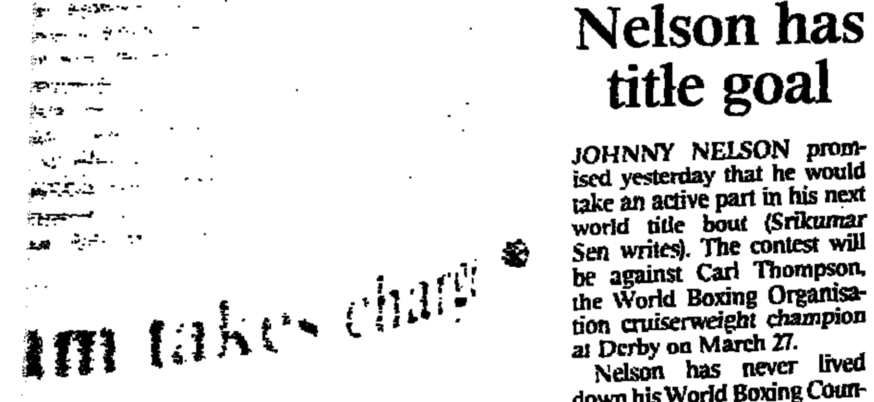
Having won the toss on a good pitch, they made a solid start, lost the middle order in the blink of an eye, then recovered superbly with two late-order partnerships. Reaching 285 from the dire position of 115 for six was relief enough, but two quick wickets with the new ball, including that of Jarrod Englefield, the New Zealand captain, gave way to unexpected joy.

The day belonged to Richard Logan, a seam bowler from Northamptonshire, who played despite the death of his mother on the eve of the match. He made a marvellously attacking 61 and his partnership of 83 for the final wicket with Mark Wallace, the 16-year-old wicketkeeper, took England to respectability after Richard Dawson, who scored 67, and Joe Tucker, with whom he shared a partnership of 72 for the seventh wicket, built the first stage of the recovery.

Logan then had Tim McIntosh caught at slip in his first over and Matt Bulbeck produced a yorker that swung in to trap Englefield leg-before.

BOXING

Nelson has title goal



JOHNNY NELSON promised yesterday that he would take an active part in his next world title bout (Srikumar Sen writes). The contest will be against Carl Thompson, the World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight champion at Derby on March 27.

Nelson has never lived down his World Boxing Council title challenge against Carlos De Leon nine years ago. The bout ended in a draw with neither boxer landing a good punch. Now, 23 contests later, Nelson intends to put an end to all the jokes.

He said: "This fight will be voted the best of 1999. If Carl tries to box, he will be humiliated; if he tries to run after me, he will be humiliated; if he tries to chase me, he will be humiliated; if he tries to fight me, he'll get annihilated."

Thompson, from Manchester, said: "I believe Johnny Nelson has changed. I am training for the new Johnny Nelson, he's at his peak."

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

NEW PLYMOUTH: New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19: England: First innings: 285 (I N Flanagan 53, R K J Dawson 67, R J Logan 61; Shaw 5-49). New Zealand: First innings 12-2

CYCLING

GARDANNE, France: Grand Prix de la Marseillaise: 1, F Vandenbroucke (Bel, Cofidis) 3hr 27min 25sec; 2, J Voigt (Ger, Credit Agricole); 3, F Bessy (Fr, Casino); 4, N Fritsch (Fr, Saint-Quentin) all same time; 5, F de Waele (Bel, Lotto) at 57sec

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third round: Weston-super-Mare 2 Raunds Town 2. **Third-round replay:** Emley 3 Shepshed Dynamo 1

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Shrewsbury 0 Wolverhampton 1. **Postponed:** Lincoln v Port Vale. **North East Conference:** Grimsby 2 Rotherham 2. **North West Conference:** Rochdale 2 Oldham 3

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton 1 Bournemouth 0, Northampton 0 Chelsea 1; Reading 1 Colchester 0.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn 2 Leicester 1; Leeds 1 Everton 0. **Postponed:** Sunderland v Derby

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FA XI 4 British Universities 0.

GOLF

MEN'S RANKINGS: 1, T Woods (US) 11.78pts; 2, D Duval (US) 11.18; 3, M O'Meara (US) 10.18; 4, D Love III (US) 9.64; 5, E Els (SA) 9.06; 6, L Westwood (Eng) 8.95; 7, N Price (Zim) 8.80; 8, C Montgomerie (Scot) 8.70; 9, V Singh (Fiji) 8.68; 10, J Furyk (US) 7.50.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New Jersey 2 Detroit 2 (OT); NY Rangers 1 Washington 3, Philadelphia 4 Los Angeles 2; Dallas 2 Calgary 2 (OT); Edmonton 3 St Louis 4 (OT); Vancouver 0 Ottawa 1, San Jose 5 Chicago 1.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Third round: Oldham 26 Eccles 7.

SQUASH

MANCHESTER: Business Pages National Championships: Men's first qualifying round: C Ryder (Herts) bt M Gibson (Lincs) 15-7, 11-15, 15-8, 15-10; N Matthew (Yorks) bt R Cook (Lancs) 15-6, 15-4, 15-1; J Willstrop (Yorks) bt J Nardelli (Middlesex) 15-12, 15-8, 15-12; C Ewins (Dorset) bt P Williams (Notts) 15-12, 15-11, 15-9. E McAlpine (Surrey) bt G Olby (Kent) 15-13, 15-6, 15-14. N Guirey (Yorks) bt D Patel (Lancs) 15-10, 15-9, 12-15, 15-9; B Garner (Surrey) bt A Learoyd (Yorks) 15-5, 15-3, 15-4; J Robbins (Kent) bt P D Johnson (Berks) 15-10, 15-7, 15-3. A Stevenson (Yorks) bt P Billson (Lancs) 15-9, 15-12, 15-11. S Townsend (Warks) bt D Weights (Essex) 15-9, 15-2, 15-5; Y Abbas (D & C) bt A Speakman (Cheshire) 15-6, 15-6, 15-5. A Whipp (Cheshire) bt J Power (Lancs) 15-11, 8-15, 15-10, 17-15. M Thorpe (Yorks) bt A Stait (Glos) 15-13, 11-15, 15-5, 15-9; L Jemmett (Essex) bt P Hornsby (Lincs) 15-5, 15-11, 7-15, 15-12; N Wall (Yorks) bt P Astbury (Cheshire) 15-9, 15-11, 15-10; A Grant (Kent) bt L Rawlins (Worcs) 15-6, 12-15, 15-7, 15-11. D Bradbury (Warks) bt C Gallimore (Lancs) 15-8, 15-8, 15-9., P Foster (Irl) bt B Howell (Suffolk) 15-8, 15-6, 15-12. S Pickering (Cheshire) bt N Chambers (Dorset) 12-15, 15-6, 15-9, 17-15. D Walsh (Notts) bt G Ragou (Lancs) 15-13, 12-15, 15-8, 15-6, P Barker (Essex) bt K White (Derby) 15-5, 15-7, 15-12; B Hackerman (Derby) bt S Khan (Suffolk) 15-12, 13-15, 15-11, 15-11; L Drew (Essex) bt C Gallard (Kent) 15-5, 15-8, 15-9

TENNIS

MARSEILLES: Marseilles Open: Qualifying round: First round: A Clement (Fr) bt F Vicente (Sp) 6-3, 6-1; K Carlsen (Den) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3, J Golmard (Fr) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-2, 6-2, J Boutter, (Fr) bt M Safin (Russ) 6-4, 7-6, N Escude (Fr) bt K Alami (Mor) 6-1, 6-7, 7-6; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt J Antonio Marin (C Rica) 6-2, 6-1. A Medvedev (Ukr) bt F Jonsson (Swe) 7-6, 7-6. A Pavel (Rom) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-4, 7-5. G Raoux (Fr) bt M Gustafsson (Swe) 6-3, 6-4; F Santoro (Fr) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-2, 6-3.

TOKYO, Japan: Pan Pacific Open: First round: A Coetzer (SA) bt M Serna (Spa) 6-2, 6-1, L Raymond (US) bt S Plischke (Austria) 6-1, 6-2. E Callens (Bel) bt K Po (US) 6-3, 6-1, A Sugiyama (Japan) bt W Shi-ting (Taipei) 6-2, 6-3, A Kournikova (Russ) bt A Huber (Ger) 7-6, 6-0, S Pitkowski (Fr) bt L Neiland (Latvia) 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, C Black (Zim) bt J Halard-Decugis (Fr) 6-2, 6-1, N Zvereva (Bul) bt T Snyder (US) 6-7, 6-2, 6-4.

ATP RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) 3744pts; 2, A Corretja (Sp) 3530; 3, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3419; 4, P Rafter (Aus) 3264; 5, C Moyá (Sp) 3178; 6, M Rios (Chile) 2969; 7, A Agassi (US) 2845; 8, T Henman (GB) 2608; 9, R Krajicek (Holl) 2575; 10, G Rusedski (GB) 2568

WTA RANKINGS: 1, L Davenport (US) 5935 points; 2, M Hingis (Switz) 5547; 3, J Novotna (Cz) 3823; 4, M Seles (US) 3656; 5, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 3087; 6, V Williams (US) 3014; 7, S Graf (Ger) 2651; 8, M Pierce (Fr) 2582; 9, P Schnyder (Switz) 2310; 10, N Tauziat (Fr) 2259

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Manchester United v Derby (8.0)

FA Cup

Fourth-round replays

Chelsea v Oxford Utd (7.45)

Huddersfield v Wrexham (7.45)

Tennent's Scottish Cup

Third round

Clydebank v Ross County

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third-round replay: Raunds Town v Weston-super-Mare (7.45)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Combined Services v Ryman League (at Aldershot)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Birmingham v Notts County (12.30). **North West Conference:** Carlisle United v Bury (1.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Tottenham (7.0). Cambridge v Arsenal (7.0); Gillingham v Brentford (2.0); Millwall v Ipswich (2.0). Watford v Southampton, Wycombe v Fulham (2.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham v Manchester Utd (7.15), Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa (at Mansfield Town FC, 7.0). **First division:** Barnsley v Grimsby (7.0), Middlesbrough v West Bromwich (7.0). **Second division:** Blackpool v York (7.0), Scarborough v Newcastle (7.0); Sheffield Utd v Shrewsbury (2.0). **Third division:** Chester v Bury (2.0), Chesterfield v Darlington (2.0); Hartlepool v Walsall (7.0). Rochdale v Scunthorpe (2.0)

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr v Tondu (7.0), UWIC v Treorchy (7.0)

CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University v Newcastle (7.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

CLUB MATCH: Halifax v Wigan (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester Giants v Edinburgh Rocks (7.40); Thames Valley Tigers v Derby Storm (8.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights v Nottingham Panthers (7.0); Sheffield Steelers v Manchester Storm (7.30); Newcastle Riverkings v Cardiff Devils (7.15)

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **BASKETBALL:** Derby Storm have suspended Yorick Williams, the England international who was allegedly at the centre of the brawl that caused their Budweiser League match with Chester Jets to be abandoned after 28 seconds on Sunday (Nicholas Harling writes). The ban will be lifted when Derby know the results of a joint inquiry held by the league and the English Basketball Association.

■ **BOWLS: England defeated Australia 2-1 in the first of three international matches at the Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club, near Sydney, yesterday. The victory silenced critics, who suggested that the selectors had sent a below-strength squad (David Rhys Jones writes).**

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Darren Turner, the Sheffield Eagles forward, has been suspended for one match and fined £100 for a high tackle on Tony Kemp, the Wakefield Trinity stand-off, which led to his dismissal last Friday. He will be free to play in the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Former England captain makes surprise return to rugby union

Harlequins lure back Carling

BY MARK SOUSTER

RUGBY has demonstrated a breathtaking ability to raise eyebrows this season, but none quite matched the news of Will Carling's reincarnation as a Harlequins player. Thirteen months after he walked away from the game after falling out with the then coach in a disagreement over his attitude and commitment, Carling walked back into the club yesterday to complete what he described as unfinished business.

In front of the assembled media at the Stoop Memorial Ground, his second home, Carling, 33, denied that personal circumstances, or his complicated private life, had forced his hand and that he was returning for the money. "If I was coming back for money I would have taken one of the other offers," he said. "Money is not the reason I have come back. Whether people believe it or not is up to them."

He has signed a full-time agreement, initially until the end of the season which, reports suggest, could be worth £50,000 for the club's ten remaining Allied Dunbar Premiership games. Thereafter, his future is in the lap of the gods. When he makes his return to the No 13 shirt is anybody's guess, but it could be as soon as next week, against Gloucester at Kingsholm.

So, if not for the cash, why is he doing it? What have he and Harlequins got to gain from an initiative that both parties denied was a gimmick or a publicity stunt? Surely he will be on a hiding to nothing? Sport is littered with sad images of men and women who could not resist one last tilt and who subsequently were made to look fools. He was adamant this was not about recapturing past glories, but about missing Harlequins, the game, the camaraderie, being one of the boys again.

The last few months have been the loneliest of Carling's life as everything about him collapsed. From hero to zero overnight. Captain Fantastic to social pariah. This, in a way, is the beginning of the rehabilitation process.

Dressed in a pink shirt and jeans, Carling seemed relatively relaxed, given his loathing for public appearances. He bristled only slightly when confronted with questions about his private life and whether he felt the need to rebuild his tarnished image. This was about rugby, he said. "I have been completely open. I have said my bit about my private life."

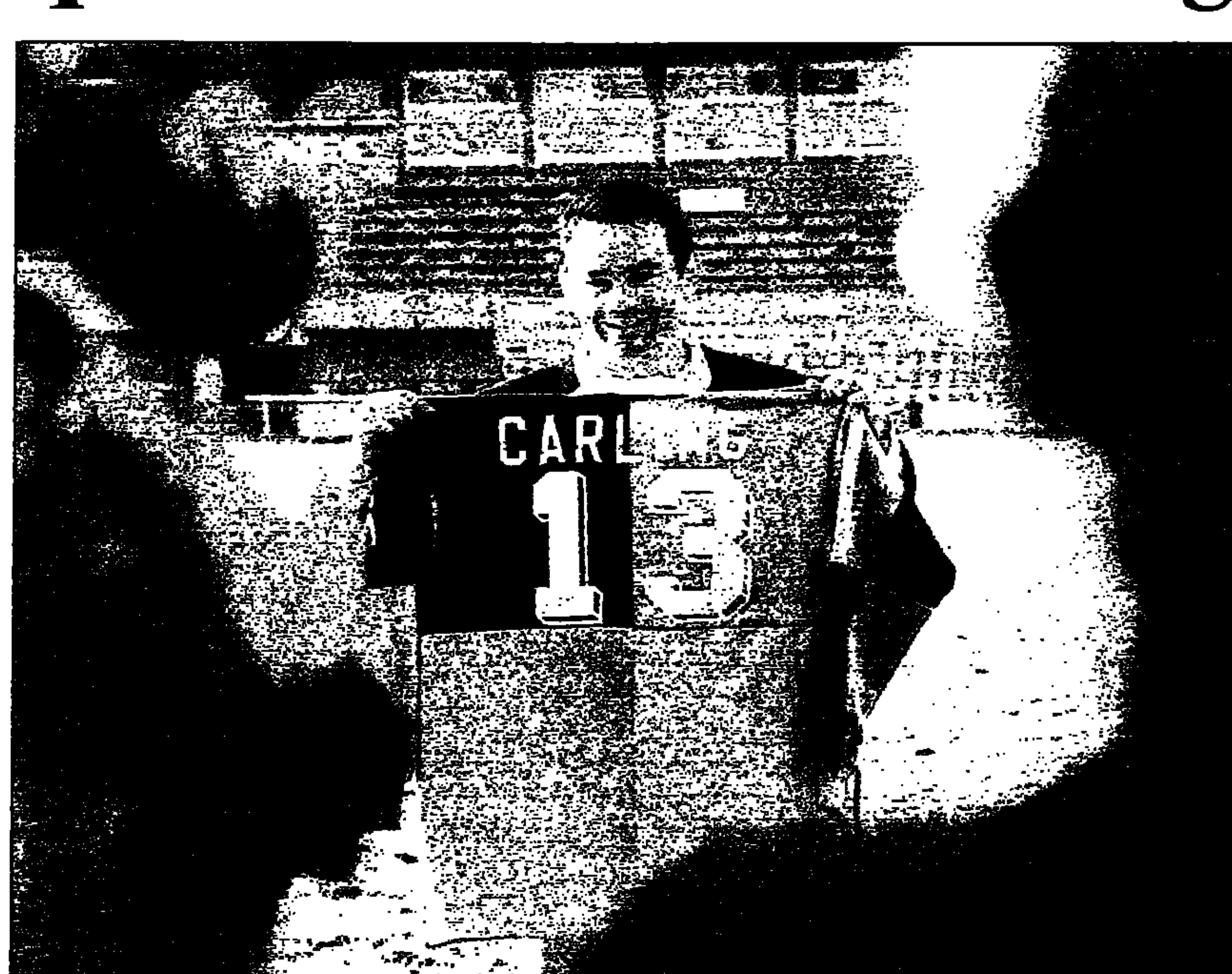
He also wants to rebuild his relationship with Harlequins. The former England captain, who played the last of his 152 games for the club on December 27 1997, against London Irish, decided, during a flight to Tokyo last month, that the time was right to accept the blandishments of Zinzan Brooke, the Harlequins director of rugby. Doubts about his fitness evaporated when he underwent a series of rigorous tests in Japan while on business. In his retirement he had only "ticked over" as far as his fitness was concerned, but lost 26lb anyway. Training yesterday demonstrated that his basic skills remain.

When he retired after a personality clash with Andy Keast, the former coach, Carling was halfway through a three-year contract worth £125,000 a year. Now the new regime want him to help to bring out the best of the developing talent at The Stoop. In short, he feels wanted again, and where better than in the comforting bosom of the club he first joined in 1986?

"There is a bit of unfinished business. I would like my time with Harlequins to end on a positive note, get things back on an even keel here and help Harlequins into Europe." Carling, who insisted he would not contemplate an international recall, said. He accepts he will be a target. "I am looking forward to taking a few hits. I do not see it will be a hiding to nothing."

'Money is not the reason that I have decided to come back'

Carling said he first realised that he might change his mind after the game against London Scottish on January 2. He went into the changing room, had a couple of beers and enjoyed the atmosphere. Brooke, Bernie McCahill, his assistant, and John Gallagher, the team manager, paid him a visit and he informed the club of his decision on Monday. Now the hard work begins.



Focus of attention: Carling shows his Harlequins shirt to the media at the Stoop yesterday. Photograph: Ben Gurr

Wales seek Celtic compensation

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WELSH rugby faces domestic chaos next season, even while the cream of the world game contests a World Cup tournament hosted by Wales. Leading administrators acknowledged yesterday that the latest English proposals for a British league — described as "paltry" by Graham Henry, the national coach — they could turn only to some form of Celtic league or rely on their own resources.

At a special meeting on Monday night, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) general committee refused to contemplate a competition that limited it to five participants and left Scotland isolated altogether. The union is no nearer a *rapprochement* with Cardiff and Swansea, the breakaway clubs, and the latter will be served with a writ this week requiring the return of a loan worth nearly £1 million.

Both clubs could be suspended from membership of the WRU at the end of this month for non-payment of fines imposed for playing unauthorised games with English opponents this season. That, in turn, could create problems for Henry, nine of whose squad for the international on Saturday with Scotland are drawn from those two clubs; the WRU claims it has primacy of contract with the players, but the clubs may contest that.

"The [English] proposals for a British league would not have achieved the objective for northern-hemisphere football," Henry said. "I hope common sense and logic will prevail. The offer was a very paltry one. The agreement has to be beneficial to all and not, in the main, to one."

Allied Dunbar, the sponsor of the English Premiership, confirmed its interest in a cross-border competition in future seasons, if not next, and Glanmore Griffiths, the chairman of the WRU, said that a Celtic league was feasible for next season. However, the Irish already have a structure that suits them; only the Scots are desperate for games for their leading clubs and that would hardly improve the quality of domestic rugby in Wales. Serge Blanco, the president of the French league, has confirmed that the French will participate in the European Cup next season. Blanco will hope to persuade English clubs next Wednesday to return to the event.

□ Brian Kennedy, the investor who emerged as a potential buyer for London Scottish last week, yesterday admitted that he is now unlikely to take a stake in the club. He did, however, back up claims made by Tony Tiarks, the club chairman, that another source of finance for the club has been found.

Ireland call on hero of Ulster

BY DAVID HANDS

DAVID HUMPHREYS has ridden the crest of his personal wave back into Ireland's side for the opening match of the Five Nations Championship, against France at Lansdowne Road on Saturday. The fly half, who captained Ulster to the European Cup last weekend, has overtaken the experienced Eric Elwood and will win his twelfth cap.

Humphreys, who will also take over as goalkicker, is one of five changes, one positional, from the side beaten by South Africa last November. Paul Wallace, the leading tighthead prop in the home unions, returns after injury. Peter Clohessy moves to loose-head.

Malcolm O'Kelly's dislocated shoulder leads to the recall of Jeremy Davidson at lock but Andy Ward is out after damaging knee ligaments against Colomiers on Saturday. His place goes to Eric Miller.

Bryan Redpath has withdrawn from the Scotland team to play Wales at Murrayfield, his place as scrum half and captain going to Gary Armstrong.

The Rugby Football Union has asked for reports from Lydney and Steve Lander, the referee, on incidents during the Tetley's Bitter Cup tie with Saracens during which Paddy Johns was grabbed by a spectator during a brawl.

IRELAND: **C M P O'Shea** (London Irish); **J P Bishop** (London Irish), **J C Bell** (Dungannon), **K M Maggs** (Bath), **G Dempsey** (Terenure College); **D G Humphreys** (Dungannon). **C D McGuinness** (St Mary's College), **P M Clohessy** (Young Munster), **K G M Wood** (Harlequins), **P S Wallace** (Saracens), **P S Johns** (Saracens, captain), **J W Davidson** (Castres), **D O'Cuinneagain** (Sale), **E R P Miller** (Terenure College), **V C P Costello** (St Mary's College). **Replacements:** **R A J Henderson** (Wasps), **E P Elwood** (Galwegians), **C J Scally** (UCD), **T Brennan** (St Mary's College), **M J Galwey** (Shannon), **J M Fitzpatrick** (Dungannon), **R P Nesdale** (Newcastle)

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	80	90	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-1	29/1
Austria								
Obergurgl	45	230	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-8	2/2
Soll	85	130	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	30/1
St Anton	85	320	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-3	30/1
Canada								
Lake Louise	133	177	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-4	2/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	110	200	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-4	29/1
Avoriaz	130	150	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	1	29/1
La Clusaz	120	220	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-1	29/1
La Plagne	125	225	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-4	29/1
La Tania	118	177	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	3	29/1
Les Arcs	120	235	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	-2	30/1
Tignes	117	220	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	1	29/1
Val Thorens	130	190	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-2	29/1
Valmorel	86	190	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-2	29/1
Italy								
Cervinia	80	180	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	2	1/2
Cortina	30	70	Good	Hard	Varied	Sun	1	29/1
Livigno	70	150	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	4	29/1
M di Campiglio	55	100	Good	Artificial	Varied	Fine	-3	28/1
Norway								
Geilo	70	70	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-7	30/1
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	80	340	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-2	29/1
Murren	100	180	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-6	30/1
Saas Fee	50	220	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-4	29/1
St Moritz	45	110	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	0	29/1
Verbier	90	200	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-6	31/1
Villars	60	170	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	0	29/1
Wengen	110	120	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-4	29/1
Zermatt	70	180	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-6	28/1
United States								
Aspen	100	123	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-1	2/2
Deer Valley	155	170	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	2/2

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes, U = upper slopes

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 35

NITRIDING

(c) A process of hardening the surface of steel. Machined and heat-treated steels, particularly chromium, molybdenum alloys, are brought into contact at 500C with a source of nitrogen, eg ammonia.

PANTOPORIA

(c) A genus of Asian and Australian butterflies, found particularly in Sri Lanka and south China.

GALEAZZI

(c) The fracture resulting from a fall onto the outstretched hand.

LECITHIN

(a) A sticky orange substance. It was originally derived from egg yolk, but is now taken from a variety of living tissue. It is a mixture of glycero-phospho-lipids and various fatty acids. It is used in the food, pharmaceutical, petroleum and paint industries.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1, ... Qxe1+! leads to a decisive material advantage as after 2, Rxe1 Nxf5; 3, Rxe8+ Rxe8, the mate threat means White has no time to defend his queen.

TELEVISION CHOICE

War waged on Wall Street

Blood on the Carpet
BBC2, 9.50pm

Nick Mirsky's film has a terrific tale to tell. It concerns Joseph Jett, a Cleveland kid turned hotshot trader who, he maintains, was made a scapegoat by a Wall Street institution. Kidder Peabody, a venerable investment bank, was acquired by Jack Welch, chairman of General Electric, when he decided to juice up GE's profits. In 1993, Jett's skill made KP some $150 million but, when the market changed the following year, Jett's productivity did not change commensurately. The young star was of course resented and, being black, was pretty conspicuous. When KP developed a serious accounting error, Jett was blamed for forward trading (don't ask). How KP handled the crisis and how Jett handled himself makes for gripping viewing.

Sex and the City
Channel 4, 10.00pm

The pilot and the series opener of this new sitcom go out on Channel 4 back-to-back. It's quite sufficient to allow minds to be made up. From its "1960s-feel" theme music to its to-camera address, the show tries far too hard. Simultaneously diffuse and calculated, it deals with a circle of media/arts/infotainment friends in New York, mostly women, centred on Carrie (the engaging Sarah Jessica Parker). Her work as a columnist grants her useful *entree* into various worlds. More wry than funny and conspicuously lacking a laughter track (for which many will be grateful), it dresses itself in post-*Seinfeld* f-words and snazzy juxtapositions. It may be a lot less narrow and woebegone than *Ally McBeal* but it can surely only have garnered a US audience on the coasts. I give it two series, tops.

Inside Story: Supergrass
BBC1, 10.15pm

"I'm Charlie Potatoes of the supergrasses at the minute," says Darren Nicholls's mouth in big close-up. "Of all the ones in the system, I am the tops." Nicholls drove the car in which those convicted of the summary killing of three Essex drug- dealers approached their quarry. It was on his evidence that the case was brought. Now he and his family live in hiding. It's tough on his tearful wife, also shot in facial fragments to blur her identity. DS Ivan Dibley, returning to the scene of the crime, reckons he believes Nicholls. The family of one of those convicted say that Nicholls has changed his story 26 times, an oddly exact number, but "We need him alive because he's the only evidence there is". Police protection is no picnic. The family live on the dole somewhere in Britain and never go out. In this at least, they are not unique.

Sarah Jessica Parker stars in the new US import *Sex and the City* (Channel 4, 10pm)

Pierre Boulez: A Life in Seven Chapters
BBC2, 11.15pm

Nifty titles by Mina Martinez set the tone for this portrait of the giant of modern music. Centred on a *tour d'horizon* interview conducted by the new Radio 3 Controller Roger Wright, it draws some pithy observation from Boulez and drops in some enticing archive material. The master's English is fluent, his manner thoughtful and relaxed if ever so slightly wary. He talks well about his reworking instinct and draws a scrumptious analogy between his view of his work and the structure of the Guggenheim. He was bounced into conducting, to our great good luck (catch his recent CD of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*) and has used the baton to take new music to new audiences. Acutely, he relates the notion of tradition to the habit of mannerism. This is all so bracing, you long to see the uncut interview. **W. Stephen Gilbert**

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: Portrait
Radio 4, 2.15pm

The great prizes of the arts world have always been surrounded by drama and controversy and this play is about one of the more extraordinary examples of that reality. The setting is Sydney, Australia, in 1944 and William Dobell has just won the Archibald Prize for Portraiture. The winning portrait is a distorted but still recognisable image of Dobell's friend and fellow artist, Joshua Smith, who has himself come second in the competition. The row over the winning portrait — is it portrait or caricature? — divides the arts establishment and leads to a court case against the prize trustees which is to have a lasting effect on Smith (Paul English) and disastrous consequences for his friendship with Dobell, played by Richard Piper.

Murder, Magic and Medicine
Radio 4, 11.00am

The title of this series seemed a bit over the top when it first started, as if Radio 4's schedulers had been at the paint tin again. However, the reality of Dr Michael O'Donnell's exploration of where modern drugs come from has more than lived up to the hype and the series has been highly informative. Today O'Donnell looks at analgesics, the fancy word used by doctors to describe painkillers. This subject provides a perfect excuse to talk about opium and cannabis, the latter very much in the news of late as doctors begin experiments to see if cannabis in pill form could help people suffering with long-term illnesses. Work is also going on to see how the body's built-in painkillers can be harnessed. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel **12.00am** Blue Jam **1.00** Gilles Peterson **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** The Andy Peebles Soul Show (11/13) **10.00** Top of the Pops 2 on 2. Steve Wright returns with another nine-part series **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News with Allan Robb **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night. Full coverage of the FA Cup fourth-round replays. Plus the National Lottery Draw **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00pm** Jacobs Justice **1.00** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The SportZone **7.00** Off Side with Seb Coe **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Peter and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.35** One Planet **9.00** World News **9.05** Britain Now **9.20** World Ranking **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Wild Tales **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Sports International **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** One Planet **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Jazzmatazz **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: X-Press **5.0 0** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Sports International **7.00** World News **7.05** One Planet **7.30** Wild Tales **7.45** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** On Screen **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: X-Press **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** One Planet **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Live **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Everywoman **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour, and favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces a selection of listeners' favourite pieces of music **2.00** Concerto. Reger (Concerto in Olden Style) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including information updates, Afternoon Romance and Continuous Classics **6.30** Newsnight. Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Elgar (Overture in the South, Pomp and Circumstance Marches; Falstaff; Froissart) **11.00** Mann at Night. Musica and conversation through the early hours with Alan Mann **2.00am** Concerto. Reger (Concerto in Olden Style) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths introduces the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a review of a new production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Schubert (Piano Sonata in B, D575); Dvorak (String Sextet in A, Op 48); Glazunov (Symphony No 4 in E flat)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Julia Varady
11.00 Sound Stories: Clerics Richard Baker tells the story of John Bunyan
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Liszt
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Francois-Frederic Guy, piano, live from the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire. Brahms (Four Pieces, Op 119); Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No 8)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis and Vernon Handley. Peter Donohoe, piano. Ravel (Valses Nobles et Sentimentales); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor); Berlioz (Symphonie Fantastique)
4.00 Choral Evensong Live from Rochester Cathedral
5.00 In Tune Arts news, previews and new releases with Sean Rafferty
7.45 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) From the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. London Sinfonietta under George Benjamin, Valdine Anderson, soprano. Wolfgang Rihm (Gedrangte Form, first UK performance) Gerard Grisey (Quatre Chants pour Franchir le Seuil, first performance) **8.30** Boulez's Lost Symphony. Pierre Boulez talks to Brian Morton about the lost symphony he composed in 1947 **8.50** Concert, part two. Pierre Boulez (Sur incises)
9.40 Postscript: Outriders Derek Bailey (3/5)
10.00 Ensemble In the first of two programmes, Penny Gore investigates how composers down the ages have transcribed and reworked the music of their predecessors
10.45 Night Waves Patrick Wright reviews a retrospective of the paintings of Patrick Caulfield at the Hayward Gallery, London
11.30 Jazz Notes The American bassist Bill Crow talks to Alyn Shipton about Stan Getz
12.00am Composer of the Week: Tavener (r)
1.00 Through the Night Includes **1.00** Wolfgang Zerer, organ **2.05** Bruckner (Ave Maria; Christus factus est; Locus iste) **2.30** Mozart (Violin Concerto No 3 in G, K216) **3.00** Schools: Time and Tune **3.20** Together **3.40** Dance Workshop **4.00** The Song Tree **4.20** Scottish Resources 10-12 **4.40** Talking Points **5.00** Soler (Fandango in D minor, R146) **5.20** Arriaga (Symphony in D major/minor)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Anna Hill
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Midweek with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: Best American Essays: One Violent Crime Bruce Shapiro's tale of a seemingly motiveless knife attack in a coffee shop (3/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour Jenni Murray presents Helen Mirren's auto diary from South Africa
11.00 Murder, Magic and Medicine Michael O'Donnell traces the development of analgesics. See Choice
11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time A look at American radio serials of the 1930s and 1940s, the forerunners of modern television soaps (2/6) (r)
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Trace Rawlinson and Mark Whittaker present consumer news and investigations
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Board Game Panelists Peter Day, Greg Dyke, Steve Punt and Justin Urquhart Stewart take part in the business quiz, chaired by Nigel Cassidy
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Portrait by Michael Mundell. William Dobell's prize-winning painting of a fellow artist raises the question: is it a portrait or a caricature? See Choice
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time (r)
3.30 The Speech Makers A 17-year-old boy visits a speech therapist to learn why his voice still hasn't broken (3/4)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates the history behind the Magna Carta (r)
4.00 All in the Mind Professor Anthony Clare explores the limits of the human mind
4.30 Thinking Allowed with Laurie Taylor and guests
5.00 PM Presented by Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Like They've Never Been Gone Mike Coleman's comedy, starring Roy Hudd and June Whitfield as a showbiz couple who find fame again (r)
7.00 The Archers Sid embarks on a training regime
7.15 Front Row Presented by Mark Lawson
7.45 Speaking for Themselves: The Personal Letters of Winston and Clementine Churchill Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The Moral Maze Michael Buerk presents topical debate, with David Starkey, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook
8.45 Gerry's Bar Gerry Anderson introduces reflections on Irish life (r)
9.00 Frontiers News of exploding stars visible from a mountain top in Chile presents Peter Evans with an intriguing puzzle about the Big Bang theory
9.30 Midweek (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sound of Trumpets Rik Mayall reads part eight of John Mortimer's tale
11.00 Late Night on 4: Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of Misery The award-winning comedian Sean Lock presents his own brand of downbeat humour
11.15 For One Horrible Moment The final instalment of Peter Bradshaw's tale of a boy's journey into adulthood (5/5)
11.30 (FM) The Cheese Shop Presents: The Butter Factor Comedy sketches, with Gerard Foster, Dave Lamb, Gordon Southern, Tim Verrinder, Ben Ward and Richard Webb (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Lemona's Tale Written by Ken Saro-Wiwa and read by Adjoa Andoh (3/10)
12.49 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

The curious urge to expose your failings

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

You wouldn't want to spend even two minutes in Ian Hinde's filthy flat (decorative style: IRA dirty protest) any more than you'd want to lick the seat on a Number 11 bus. The colonies of bacteria in Ian's fridge have grown so large they *now* have their own postcode. If the makers of **Coming Clean — The Truth About Housework** (BBC2) announced that they had gathered this gruesome footage by filming secretly inside a British prison cell, there'd be calls for Jack Straw's resignation as Home Secretary.

Jennifer Grimshaw, a retired *London* businesswoman who shares Ian's belief that cleanliness is next to fascism, had also been *somehow persuaded to let the film-makers* past her front door. Jennifer would be Magritte's Surreal idea of a cleaning lady. "*I don't* wash up," she announced briskly, before she'd even introduced herself, "I do not scrub. I do not clean the silver. I do not rinse my glasses. I think housework is a mug's game." Behind her was an apartment that could have been interior-designed by very shrewd Neighbourhood Watch consultants: clothes, saucepans, cups, shoes were strewn randomly, as if to dupe a burglar into thinking that he'd been beaten to the scene by a *rival thief* who *had already* ransacked the place.

Then Vicky Keane, a student *sharing a flat in Leeds with several* other girls, said "I absolutely insist on an unmade bed," as if she were telling us primly that she always insists on the milk being poured into the cup *after* the tea. "I just can't see the point in making a bed, because 12 hours later it's going to be messed up right again and that is just a pure waste of *time* in my mind." Luckily we don't yet have Smell-O-Vision television, because presumably Vicky doesn't *see any point in washing* herself too thoroughly either, *since* she'd only have to wash herself all over again a few hours later (but does Vicky — knowing that she'll crave another Chinese meal half an hour after finishing the first one — not bother squandering the effort involved in eating the first Chinese meal at all?). "It's all linked to the fact that I want to be a career girl," says Vicky, unironically, "and I just haven't got time for clearing up. It's just girl power, *really." If this is supposed to be a* plug for girl power, let's assume the career Vicky's got in mind isn't *public relations.*

Even more baffling than trying to fathom why anybody voluntarily chooses to live this way (unless they're on a fat retainer from researchers at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases to contract hitherto unknown bacterial infections) is trying to work out *why anybody would agree to ex*pose their insanitary homes to such a huge audience. Jennifer Grimshaw told us: "I don't want people in my home. That shows too much of me, and if people come into my house I feel very defensive." So then why let the BBC's cameras in?

The same question nags you throughout Swingers (ITV), which was maybe straining just a little *too hard to shock when it promot*ed itself as a documentary which "dares to question whether monogamy still has a place in today's society". It was like those documentaries which dare to question (very loudly) whether the streets of Britain have become so lawless that we risk being felled in a drive-by shooting whenever we pop out to buy a newspaper before concluding (very quietly) that, um, actually no they haven't.

Andy and Fiona, the film's two *main swingers, weren't even* swinging by the end of it — not with each other at any rate: they were about to separate. Andy, who claimed to have such a high libido that it was one of his heavy burdens in life, was considerably keener on messing around with other women than his wife was on messing around with other men. Sometimes Andy secretly messed around with other women without telling Fiona — not because he and *Fiona didn't have an honest open* relationship, or because she might get jealous, oh no; but because, as he explained, telling her would be like "bragging". This must be why Bill Clinton never mentioned anything about Monica Lewinsky to Hillary or to Kenneth Starr or to Congress for so long: the President didn't want to seem as if he was boasting about his sexual conquests, that's all.

Then Bob told us about his *wife's "S" days. On days* when his wife, Sue, is wearing her special "S" on her necklace Bob can order her to perform any sexual whim — including picking up strange men on a Tube train and bringing them home for sex so that Bob can watch.

You see, when Sue's wearing the "S" on her necklace "she's my slave for the day. So 'S' is for slave. 'S' is for sex, 'S' is for Sue." Curiously, Bob never gets to wear a necklace *bearing the letter "M" — as in* "M" for master, "M" for manly, "M" for moron.

Look, nobody minds what these people do, let alone cares. But why do they want us all to know?

Again, in *Full Metal Backpack*, last night's film for Channel 4's season of **Short Stories**, several drunk young Britons let themselves be filmed as they made fools of themselves *on holiday in* Vietnam and Cambodia. Perhaps they didn't realise how they would *come across in Dimitri Doganis's* film: maybe they didn't care. A disillusioned young Scot lamented: "It's slightly disappointing to come all this way and still be yourself." So who was the self he so ached to be? Bruce Chatwin? The Dalai Lama? No. Martin Sheen, in a GI outfit, in *Apocalypse Now*. The Vietnamese were discreetly silent. It was only their eyes that said, "And Westerners bombed us because they thought *their* culture *was superior to ours!*"

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (64319)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (33116)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8341241)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4757116)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6812680)
11.00 Real Rooms (6839357)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6809116)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1082203)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (88777)
12.30 *Wipeout (5217785)*
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48555067)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (36203)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47277135)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (25156390)
2.05 Ironside A stylish bank robbery appears to be the work of a known ex-con, but could there be a copycat at large? With Raymond Burr (r) (3203951)
2.55 Body Spies Two women cut their drinking sessions (5557241)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6470970) **3.45** Little Monsters (2340574) **3.50** ChuckleVision (5189086) **4.10** See It Saw *It* (3682680) **4.35** The Wild House (5242135) **5.00** Newsround (2782203) **5.10** Blue Peter (6334845)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (713002)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (96)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (48)

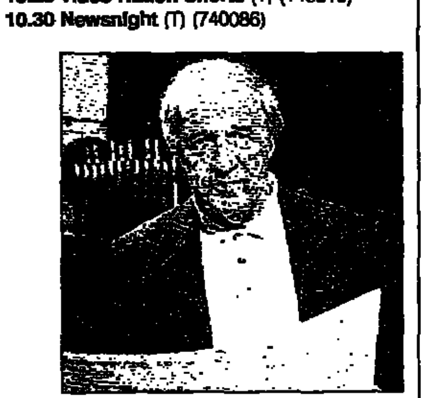


Jeremy Spake, the Aeroflot supervisor at Heathrow (7pm)

7.00 Airport Aeroflot supervisor Jeremy Spake receives a tempting offer, while Royal Suite manager Anita Newcourt faces a crisis (r) (T) (1845)
7.30 Dream House The team struggle to get their 21st-century home ready for its new occupants (T) (32)
8.00 Changing Rooms A Bolton woman swaps houses with her Mum for a spot of *radical redecorating (T) (9703)*
8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home Staff at the famous kennels set about rehoming stray dogs (T) (380154)
8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories The story of a man and his lucky car which found its way home eight years *after it was sold. Plus, live coverage of the* mid-week draw (T) (259845)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7864)
9.29 National Lottery Update (763999)
9.30 The X Files Mulder investigates an unsolved spate of murders dating back *to 1952 (T) (150339)*
10.15 CHOICE **Inside Story** The former getaway driver Darren Nicholls describes what prompted him to turn supergrass (3/5) (T) (583593)
11.10 Deadly Whispers (1994) Premiere. FILM Psychological thriller about a devoted *family man whose world falls apart when* he is implicated in the murder of his daughter. Tony Danza and Pamela Reed star. Directed by Bill Norton (T) (400319)
12.40am Weather (7647568)
12.45 BBC News 24 (65079452)

BBC2

7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Tales of the Tooth Fairies (3508390) **7.05** Teletubbies (6426932) **7.30** *Secret Squirrel and Co* (6212999) **7.55** The Really Wild Show (6280390) **8.23** Rewind (9452338) **8.25** Taz-Mania (7396951) **8.45** Polka Dot *Shorts (8676222)* ***8.50*** *Tales of the Tooth* Fairies (3372512) **9.00** Images (9338195) **9.10** What? Where? When? Why? (5938339) **9.25** The Art (4193048) **9.45** Words and Pictures (1283425) **10.00** Teletubbies (24970) **10.30** Numbertime (2280319) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (2278574) **11.00** Around Scotland (8519965) **11.20** The Geography Programme (8562951) **11.40** Science in Action (8970135) **12.00pm** Revista (9959512) **12.15** Hallo aus Berlin *(7497777)* **12.30** Working Lunch (45113) **1.00** Brum (94538357)
1.10 The Travel Hour Alsace (r) (9292319)
2.10 Sporting Greats (61348628)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3600406)
2.45 Westminster (T) (2507932)
3.55 News; Weather (T) (6541864)
4.00 Turning Points *The Marquess of Bath in* conversation (4395241)
4.05 Birds with Tony Soper (3609357)
4.25 Daisies in December (TVM 1995) A FILM librarian falls for a standoffish stockbroker during a holiday in Cornwall. With Jean Simmons and Joss Ackland. Directed by Mark Haber (T) (53360244)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation A rescue mission leads to a dangerous romance (r) (T) (944512)
6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer Xander has one of those days (T) (355999)
7.30 Tales from the Riverbank The lure of *the carp to the angler (r) (T) (74)*
8.00 Battle of the Sexes How sexual hierarchies develop (T) (8135)
8.30 Home Front (11/12) (T) (4870)
9.00 Mersey Blues Murder Squad arrange an ID parade (T) (856425)
9.50 CHOICE **Blood on the Carpet** Insight *into the controversial case of* Joseph Jett (T) (600609)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (T) (140319)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (740086)



The composer Pierre Boulez talks about his life and work (11.15pm)

11.15 CHOICE **Pierre Boulez: A Life in Seven Chapters** The celebrated French composer-conductor in conversation (T) (868116)
11.55 Weather (311113)
12.00am Despatch Box (64487)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Sex and the Single Gene? **1.00** The Art of Breathing **1.30** Galapagos: Research in the Field **2.00** Mathematics — Mathsphere Edits: Algebra **4.00** Languages: *The French Experience* ***5.00*** *Voluntary* Matters — Selling Yourself **5.30** 20 Steps to Better Management: Making the Most of Yourself **5.45** Open University: Reindeer in the Arctic ***6.10*** Why Me? ***6.35*** Brief Encounter

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (17999)
6.00 GMTV (2012262)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5718067)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11815574)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7484203)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; *Weather* (T) (31357)
1.00 WEST: Next Stop Richard Wyatt, Polly Lloyd and correspondents review local news and events live from Watchet and Williton in Somerset (61999)
1.00 WALES: Shortland Street Minnie makes a major mistake (61999)
1.30 Home and Away Tiegan and Joey split up (T) (30628)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous *US talk show (T) (5136406)*
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (T) (400970)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (9307488)
3.20 HTV News (T) (6052311)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (3707244) **3.35** Teddybears (3428425) **3.45** Jumanji *(6369796)* **4.10** Whizziwig *(6534574)* **4.40** Mad for It (2573338)
5.10 A Country Practice Tom, Harry, Kate and Anna go camping (9574135)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (646241)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (693390)
6.00 Home and Away *(r) (T) (971680)*
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (825048)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (227406)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (16)



Butch (Paul Loughran) learns the upsetting truth about Belle (7pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Turner introduces the new bar manager and Butch Dingle discovers that Zak has been using Belle (T) (9241)
7.30 Coronation Street *Natalie and Colin* draw closer (T) (28)
8.00 Midsomer Murders The naked body of a young woman is found strangled in local woodland. Starring John Nettles, Daniel Casey, Phyllis Logan and Trudie Styler (T) (8086)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (74574)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (862680)
10.40 The Big Match Highlights of tonight's FA Cup fourth-round replays (47359048)
12.15am True Identity (1991) Lenny Henry FILM stars as a struggling actor who disguises himself as a white man to escape the clutches of the Mafia. Directed by Charles Lane (302742)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (r) (1971891)
2.40 Masterclass With saxophone maestro *Chris "Snake" Davis (1628452)*
3.05 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (7838075)
4.10 The Making of Very Bad Things Feature on the comedy thriller starring Cameron Diaz (47265655)
4.40 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (83987636)
5.00 Coronation Street Shown earlier (r) (T) (60278)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (8683135)
1.00 Echo Point (61999)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1967796)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (418999)
3.20-3.25 Central News (6052311)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9574135)
6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (625048)
10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (862680)
4.10am Central Jobfinder '99 (4156051)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (7629636)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather (7484203)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (8891154)
1.00 Emmerdale (61999)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1987796)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (418999)
3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (6052311)
5.08 Birthday People (5669661)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9574135)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live *(16048)*
10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather (862680)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** *Weather* *(7484203)* ***1.00-1.35*** **Shortland Street** (9251338) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9574135) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (64) **6.30-7.00 Birdwatch** (5/6) (T) (16) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (862680) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (60278)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8895970) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8883135) **1.00-1.35 Shortland Street** (9251338) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9574135) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (693390) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (64) **6.30-7.00 Whipsnade** *(2/13) (T) (16)* ***10.29 Anglia Air Watch*** (137845) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (862680)

S4C

Starts **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (47948864) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34482628) **9.00 Ysgolion:** French Express (83443593) **9.25 Schools At Work** (43789512) **9.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat** (94500999) **9.45 Book Box** *(94598154)* ***10.00 Stage Two Science*** (20902116) **10.15 All About Us** (20925067) **10.30 The French Programme** (69289951) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (21283222) **11.00 Dwr, Aer, Tir** (95850864) **11.15 Tackling Technology** (95873715) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (40964609) **12.00pm Home Improvement** (T) (29874222) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38429609) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34485715) **1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman** (T) (66215135) **1.55 FILM: We're Not Married** (T) *(21228992)* **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (81317593) **4. 00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81336628) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (81325512) **5.00 Planed Plant** (T) (64806203) **5.30 Countdown** (T) *(81316864)* ***6.00 Newyddion 5*** *(T)* (54628086) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16594593) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64826067) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81326241) **8.00 Ffermio** (T) (64835715) **8.30 Pacio** (T) (64814222) **9.00 ER** (T) (69666785) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (60516932) **10.35 Sex and the City** (T) (56923970) **11.05 Sex and the City** (T) (67764154) **11.35 The Mark Thomas Comedy Product** (T) (63876425) **12.05am Music of the Millennium** (T) (33512471) **12.55 Football Italia:** ***Mezzanotte*** *(19497075)* ***3.20 Trans World*** **Sport** (64360297) **4.20 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (80357)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (59154)
9.00 Schools: French Express (4159593) **9.25** Schools at Work (6461154) **9.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (1280338) **9.45** Book Box (1278593) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9414406) **10.15** All About Us (9437357) **10.30** Channel Hopping (7237154) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (3960222) **11.00** First Edition: VI (8553203) **11.15** Tackling Technology (8576154)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (1067)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (81965)
12.30 Bewitched *(r) (T) (39999)*
1.00 Pet Rescue The work of RSPCA centres (T) (52241)
1.30 Roots to Success (13902593)
1.50 The Feminine Touch (1956) A student FILM nurse falls for a handsome doctor, but finds herself torn between continuing her *training or going to Canada with him.* Romantic drama, starring George Baker. Directed by Pat Jackson (T) (46851864)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (22)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (57)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5236574)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (3890777)
5.30 Pet Rescue *A pregnant cat poses a* problem (T) (93)
6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Richard E Grant joins Sue Perkins and Mel Giedroyc (T) (95690)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (249999)
7.55 Music of the Millennium Shane MacGowan (T) (130951)
8.00 Brookside Niamh evens the score with Benny (T) (3203)
8.30 The Real Holiday Show Holidaymakers seek the ultimate high, from a flight across Africa, to a spiritually awakening trip to Barbados and a Sri Lankan adventure (T) (2338)



Dr Greene (Anthony Edwards) shows Lucy (Kellie Martin) the ropes (9pm)

9.00 ER The long-awaited new series of the medical drama sees a third-year student put through her paces in the thick of things (T) (2048)
10.00 CHOICE ***Sex and the City*** New comedy series set in New York, about a group of women friends who resolve to take a fresh look at their sex lives (T) (72116)
10.30 Sex and the City Carrie dates a hunk (T) (81864)
11.00 Mark Thomas Comedy Product Topical comical observations (T) (2319)
11.30 Music of the Millennium (T) (230319)
12.25am boardstupid goes skiing The third round *of the World Downhill (r) (6298926)*
12.55 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of the week's action (13105617)
3.20 Trans World Sport (9549094)
4.20 What a Crazy World (1963) Joe Brown FILM stars as an aspiring rock star desperate for fame and fortune. Comedy musical, *with Susan Maughan. Directed by* Michael Carreras (3072636)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (6832574)
7.00 WideWorld *Part four. The creativity of* the South African Ndebele women (r) (T) (6207715)
7.30 Milkshake! (7094929)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (3452241)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4235715)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r). 5 News Update (4234086)
9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (1927222)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (7652593)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6305777)
10.20 Sunset Beach Gregory questions Ben about Maria (T) (1305970)
11.10 Leeza (4714593)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4205574)
12.30 Family Affairs Dave has a narrow escape (r) (T); 5 News Update (9257048)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Jessica refuses to see Dylan (T) (6206086)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment chat show, presented by outspoken comedian. 5 News Update (9256319)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5402046)
2.30 Good Afternoon e (1055628)
3.30 Command in Hell (TVM 1988) A female FILM police officer encounters a wall of silence while investigating a colleague's mysterious death. Thriller, starring Suzanne Pleshette. Directed by George Stanford Brown (9032390)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T). 5 *News Update (6243311)*
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (6652593)
6.30 Family Affairs The day of the funeral dawns (T) (6643845)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5406864)
7.30 Wild Water The devotion shown by male *and female fur seals towards their* offspring (T), 5 News Update (6672357)
8.00 Into the Flames A report on the dangerous work of fighting forest fires, joining helicopter pilots as they brave near-zero visibility in the dense smoke above the treetops to report on the progress of a blaze, and the air-tanker pilots who swoop down to collect water from lakes and reservoirs before dropping it on to the flames (T), 5 News *Update (1594086)*
9.00 Triple Cross (TVM 1995) A married FILM couple of con artists have their comfortable lives turned upside down by an ageing FBI agent determined to catch them before he retires. Drama, starring Patrick Bergin, Ashley Laurence and Billy Dee Williams. Directed by William Wellman (T), 5 News Update (99969883)
10.50 Not Melinda's Big Night In With Paul Hendy and Richard Whiteley (8591999)
11.30 Strange Luck Chance is given a mysterious black cube — a powerful gift which enables him to locate clues as to the whereabouts of his long-lost brother (9371864)
12.25am NHL: American Ice Hockey New York Rangers at Washington Capitals *(27924636)*
4.40 The Movie Chart Show News and *reviews (r) (65297907)*
5.05 Move On Up (r) (46103029)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9124704)

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● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (91154) **7.30** Chris Evans (47135) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (19661) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (52086) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (76845) **11.00** Guilty! (96609) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (74086) **1.00** Mad About You (90425) **1.30** Jeopardy (54222) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (74999) **3.00** Jenny Jones (56116) **4.00** Guilty! (68951) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5154) **6.00** Married — With Children (8629) **6.30** Friends (2680) **7.00** Simpsons (9883) **7.30** Simpsons (8864) **8.00** Stargate SG-1 (86845) **9.00** X-Files (90169) **10.00** Naked in Westminster (59816) **11.00** *Friends (69680)* **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (31715) **12.30am** The Commish (27636) **1.30** Long Play (7886346)

SKY BOX OFFICE

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SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
The Peacemaker (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 *(Transponder 60)*
The Ice Storm (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Trial and Error (1997)
The Devil's Advocate (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Fire Down Below (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Les Enfants Du Paradis (1945) (6744574) **8.00 Gregory's Girl (1980)** (8756519) **10.00 The Shining (1980)** (21138067) **12.05am Caro Diario (1994)** (3505487) **1.45 Army of Shadows (1969)** (11981162) **4.00 Dead of Night (1945)** (5348471) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Major League (1989) (61932) **8.00 Incredible Journey (1963)** (56593) **10.00 Magic in the Water (1995)** (64609) **12.00pm Places in the Heart (1984)** (46116) **2.00 Major League (1989)** (21390) **4.00 Incredible Journey (1963)** (38479777) **5.45 Magic in the Water (1995)** (61698628) ***8.00 Everyone Says I Love You (1996)*** (13999) **10.00 Independence Day (1996)** (58014628) **12.25am Awakenings (1990)** (207723) **2.25 Beer (1985)** (2061094) **3.50 Last Stand at Saber River (1997)** (73908520)

SKY MOVIEMAX

7.00am Femmes Fatales (86222) **7.30** Action Heroes (5057338) **8.15** Movie Magic (8708635) **9.00 Sgt Bilko (1996)** (78715) **11.00 Dogmatic (1996)** (70393) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales *(85593)* ***1.30*** *Action Heroes* (9766796) **2.15** Movie Magic (2804406) **3.00 Almost Summer (1978)** (30723) **5.00 Dogmatic (1996)** (36338) **7.00 Sgt Bilko (1996)** (99488) **8.30** E! News in Review (9406) **9.00 Suspicion of Innocence (1997)** (14628) **11.00 Reaper (1997)** (332512) **12.35am Sudden Terror: The Hijacking of School Bus 17 (TVM 1997)** *(7989704)* **2.05 Flirting (1992)** (552487) **3.45 The Killing Secret (1996)** (970384)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Champion (1949) (42510338) **5.45 The Capetown Affair (1967)** (36677864) **7.30 The Guns of Navarone (1961)** (3600222) **10.00 The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean (1972)** *(87788609)* **12.10am The Seven-Ups (1973)** (9703384) **1.55 Son of Paleface (1952)** (4220636) **3.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame: Burt Lancaster (5089549) **4.00 None Shall Escape (1944)** (5099926)

TNT

9.00pm The Maltese Falcon (1941) (92489951) **11.00 The Outfit (1974)** (40797512) **1.00am The Power (1968)** (40882636) **3.00 The Maltese Falcon (1941)** (20583966) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Inside Scottish Football **11.00** Sports Unlimited ***12.00pm*** *Aerobics* **12.30** Premier Snooker League **2.30** World Windsurfing **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Superbouts **5.00** Wrestling ***6.00*** *Sports Centre* ***6.30*** *Unbelievable* Sports **7.00** World Pool League **8.00** Ringside Boxing **9.30** Unbelievable Sports **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** World Pool League **12.00am** Sports Centre **12.15** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Ringside Boxing **2.30** World Pool League **3.30** Sports Centre **3.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Live Cricket **11.00** *Total Sport* **11.30** World Windsurfing **12.00pm** FA Cup Special **2.00** Sports *Unlimited* ***3.00*** *Cricket* **8.00** Women's Golf **8.00** Golf Extra **11.00** Watersports World **12.00am** European Tour Weekly **12.30** Women's Golf **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Superbouts **3.00** Golf Extra **6.00** Watersports World **7.00** International Cricket **10.00** FA Cup Final Classics **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Eurogoals **9.00** Extreme Sports **10.00** Alpine Skiing **11.00** Luge **11.30** Tennis **12.00pm** Football **1.00** Cycling **2.00** US Golf **3.00** Luge **4.00** Alpine Skiing **5.00** Extreme Sports **6.00** Start Your Engines **7.00** Trial **8.00** Tractor Pulling **9.00** Darts **10.00** Martial Arts **11.00** Start Your Engines **12.00am** Extreme Sports **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

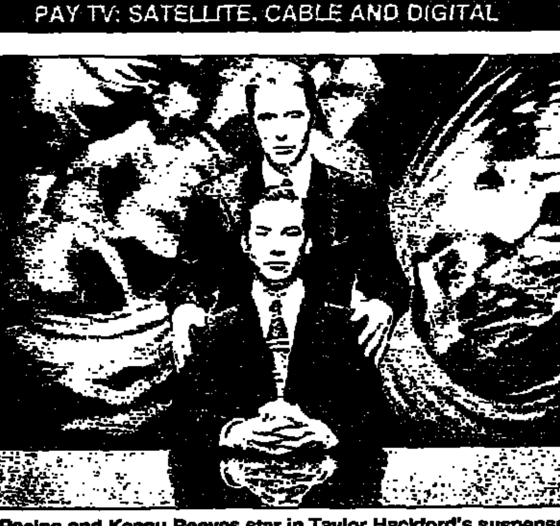
7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** The Detectives **9.00** One Foot in the Grave **9.40** Jonathan Creek **10.55** French and Saunders **11.35** The Bill **12.35am** The *Black Adder* ***1.15*** *Spender* **2.15** Colin's Sandwich **2.45** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am *Within These Walls* **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Fosters **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Agony **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild ***10.30*** *Hogan's Heroes* **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am *Bear in the Big Blue House* **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Tots TV **1.30** The *Big Garage* ***1.45*** *PB and J Otter* ***2.00*** *New* Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00 FILM: Brink (1998)** **9.30** Home Improvement **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close



Al Pacino and Keanu Reeves star in Taylor Hackford's suspense thriller *The Devil's Advocate* (Sky Box Office 3)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** EekStravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Sam and Max **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** *X-Men* ***2.40*** *Fantastic Four* **3.05** The Incredible Hulk **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** EekStravaganza **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Muppet Babies **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** *Pippi Longstocking* **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Driven Crazy **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempestt **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Blast **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** LAPD **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Series **11.00 FILM: *Natural Born Killers (1994)*** ***1.15am*** Sex Bytes **1.50** Erotic Series **2.20** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.50** Short **3.05 FILM: To Live and Die in LA (1985)** **5.15** Short **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** News Radio **9.00** Cybill **9.30** Vic Reeves Big Night Out **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** *The Critic* ***2.00*** *Dr Katz* **2.30** Tits and Fits **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 6pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Flash **9.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **10.00 FILM: The Wraith (1986)** **12.00am** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00 FILM: Pulse (1988)** **2.40** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** The Great Garden Game **10.00** Bloom **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country: Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Doing It Up **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila ***3.00*** *This Old House with Steve and Norm* **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm *Rex Hunt Specials* ***4.30*** *Walker's World* **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** History's Turning Points **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe **8.30** Creatures Fantastic **9.00** Life After Death: A Sceptical Enquiry **10.00** Searching for Lost Worlds: Machu Picchu **11.00** The Mosquito Story **12.00am** Intrigue in Istanbul **1.00** History's Turning Points **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Totally Australia **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** All-Bird TV **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures ***4.30*** *Animal Doctor* **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** *Animal Doctor* ***8.30*** *Horse Tales* ***9.00*** *Going* Wild **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Crocodile Hunter **11.00** Wildlife ER **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm A Gift for Samburu **7.30** Caesarea Maritima: Herod's Harbour **8.00** Orphans in Paradise **9.00** Art of Tracking **10.00** Rocket Men **11.00** On the Edge: Combat Cameramen **11.30** On the Edge: Skis Against the Bomb **12.00am** Extreme Earth: Born of Fire

HISTORY

4.00pm *The World at War: Japan* **5.00** Classic Cars: VW Beetle **6.00** Witches **7.00** Biography: Adolf Hitler

CARLTON FOOD

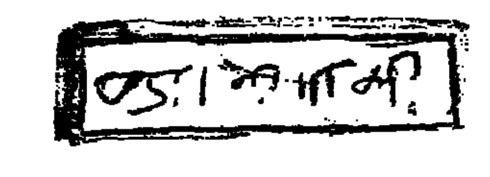
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Feasts of the World **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** *Food Network Daily* **12.30** Retrospectives **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** From the Ground Up **2.00** Caribbean Light **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Surprise Chefs **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** *Thoroughly Modern British* ***4.30*** *Chez Bruno* **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Philbert the Frog **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show Highlights **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolanda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.10** Maury Povich **9.00 FILM: Dangerous Intentions (1994)** **11.00** The Sex Zone **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Music Time **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith: Christian **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Saibab **9.00** Rishtey: The Love Stories **10.00** Sona **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Urdu Film: Maine Pyar Kiya** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Campus **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Gumrah **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Basi Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Hawaain **10.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **10.30** Woh **11.00** Purukshetra **12.00am** News **12.30** Tandoori Masala **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Raahat **2.00 FILM: Gujarati Movie: Bhakta Shree Ranimaa Rudin** **4.30** Var No Valessan





MOTOR RALLYING 37
McRae lets rip at incompetence of Ford team

SPORT

CRICKET 37
Taylor calls time on illustrious Test match career



Hoddle's departure leaves FA technical director in temporary charge of England

Wilkinson picks up the pieces

By Rob Hughes, Chief Sports Writer

IN THE modern world of football, covering 203 nations, there must be a managerial departure a day. But never could there have been one so strange, or in the end so tinged with decency, as the removal of Glenn Hoddle after his words that caused such offence to the disabled. May the karma and the football man never be linked again.

You may rest assured that, for as long or as short as he is given, Howard Wilkinson will not bring a faith healer, a spiritualist or anyone so remotely unexpected into the England camp. "I feel like a potato in a microwave, being well and truly cooked from all angles, getting hotter and hotter," Wilkinson said seven years ago, when he was the manager of Leeds United and the chairman of the League Managers' Association.

He spoke of dealing in the heat of the spotlight with players, supporters, referees, directors ... and the media. But this outwardly dour Yorkshireman, as tough as grit and yet sensitive to criticism and to the thoughts of others, will not stray into such a monumental error that has just vacated the post to him.

He may have only the match against France at Wembley a week today to make his mark; he may not want more, he may not be granted more. It must be assumed that Wilkinson, the Football Association's technical director, is now the third "acting" official in high capacity at Lancaster Gate.

Not that the incumbents are in a position to be mocked this morning. Their situation would have taxed the wisdom of Job, given the stubbornness with which Hoddle defended — and at first denied — the statement that ultimately led to his downfall.

However, when David Davies, the acting chief executive of the FA, paused last night to say that the hurt felt by Hoddle and his employers was "as nothing to any offence felt by the disabled people in our country", let no one say that the "new" FA misconstrued the depth of feeling throughout the country, from Parliament down.

Football thus has a chance to repair the damage, to move closer to the people it serves, and the action starts in the capable — the cliché says safe — hands of Wilkinson.

We may find, as the microphones are thrust before him, that the bewilderment that lingers from Eric Cantona's "seagulls following the trawler" conundrum are crystal clear compared with the philosophical maze that Wilkinson, on his day, can construct. It may not even be heard in English. "Nil illegitimi carborundum" was Wilkinson's compassionate telephoned message to John Beck when he was struggling as manager of Cambridge United. Beck is not the scholar that Wilkinson, 55, made himself, and so he had to explain: "Don't let the bastards grind you down."

> ‘He may have only the France game to make his mark’

His education came through force of will, through attending Sheffield University to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree while being player-manager of Boston United — all this because, in his own estimation, he was "a bricklayer's labourer" of a player when he led the attack for, briefly, Sheffield Wednesday and then Brighton and Hove Albion. He used his education to teach at a grammar school for two years and then, having reached the status of FA regional coach by 1980, joined Notts County, where Jimmy Sirrel, the canniest of Scottish managers, predicted that his young assistant would one day coach England.

Wilkinson's great triumph, his meticulous and dogged period in charge of Leeds United, was the making of his managerial name. He followed Brian Clough, Jimmy Armfield, Jock Stein, Allan Clarke, Eddie Gray and Billy Bremner through the revolving door at Elland Road and, in tandem with Leslie Silver, the chairman, achieved what all of them could not. He hauled Leeds from the brink of the old third division to the championship of England, he restored the club's fortunes, he bolted it onto the community and he built a youth production line that David O'Leary is now benefiting from.

After he was dismissed by a new board he reluctantly took the job of challenging the biggest divide in English football, of breaking the mistrust that had grown between the FA under his dogmatic predecessor, Charles Hughes, and the schools. That job, despite Wilkinson's pioneering schools of excellence programme, is anything but complete. Three decades of poor dogma, of lamentable attempts to consign the whole of English football to the long-ball game, will not be erased overnight. Some say that Wilkinson is himself a disciple of the long-ball game. He resents that as an insult to his intelligence, and he is an educated man.

This, indeed, might be the difference between Hoddle and Wilkinson. Hoddle went to school, but never had to doubt that he would be a player, and a great one at that. He never doubted his superiority, or that, in the footballing sense, he was from a different planet to the English.

Wilkinson has been down where average players have to work, to perspire to make the slightest impression. Yet, though he is patently given to mixing the four-letter word with the scholastic, he chastised the media on his first day as the manager of Leeds in 1988 with this homily: "Anyone can intellectualise about what is aesthetically acceptable football. If I had the world's best XI, I'd tell them to go out, play, win 28-0 ... and do it nicely."

Because he is the thinking man's artisan, because he relishes his grasp of French and northern English, because Howard Wilkinson never assumed that things happened by accident, he will have been preparing — from the moment that *The Times* landed on his doormat last Saturday morning — how he might plot the downfall of France at Wembley should the challenge be offered him. It now has been, and the Yorkshire seagull has the trawler in its sights.

What may come as a blessed relief is that Wilkinson, miner's son to football manager of the moment, has no false illusions about who, or what, he is. "We are football managers, nothing else," he has said. "We are not clergymen, not nursemaids, not policemen or social workers. We look after players, and some managers in England once recognised that an increase in physical input to a game could compensate for technical deficiencies. I was once one of them."

☐ William Hill make Wilkinson 6-5 favourite to succeed Hoddle permanently. Other odds include: 4-1 Kevin Keegan and David Platt, 6-1 Terry Venables, 8-1 Bryan Robson, 12-1 Gerard Houllier, John Gregory and Arsène Wenger, 16-1 Roy Hodgson, 25-1 George Graham, Ruud Gullit, Bobby Robson and Alex Ferguson.

End of the road 1
Simon Barnes 6
Oliver Holt 36
Gifts and gaffes 36



Better times: Wilkinson, left, who takes over the England team from Hoddle for the game with France, on being appointed FA technical director

Remarks made position untenable

IN THE end, there was no shock or surprise. Football had braced itself for the departure of Glenn Hoddle from the moment that the England coach's words appeared in *The Times*.

Even his closest colleagues in football had no sympathy for a man whom they regarded highly as both player and coach.

Terry Neill, who gave Hoddle his debut with Tottenham Hotspur, put it simply: "He screwed up. As a person, he comes across as a crank.

"I always found Glenn a nice individual, though I didn't always agreed with his views on life. It is probably — for Glenn and for English football — the right decision."

Graham Kelly, the former chief executive of the Football Association, summed up the

REACTION

reason Hoddle fell from grace: "I am very sad that a few incautious words forced him to have to leave his job. I feel for the people who have been upset by this. The disabled were let down by what Glenn allegedly said.

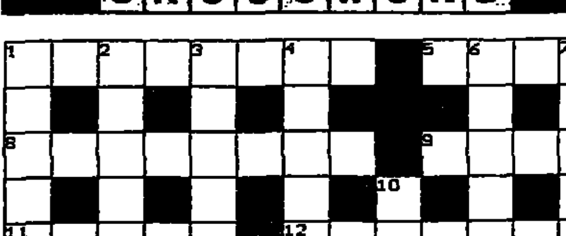
"But I am also sad that Glenn Hoddle has had to leave his job. He didn't feel that he had done anything wrong, but clearly the FA decided this was the best way to go."

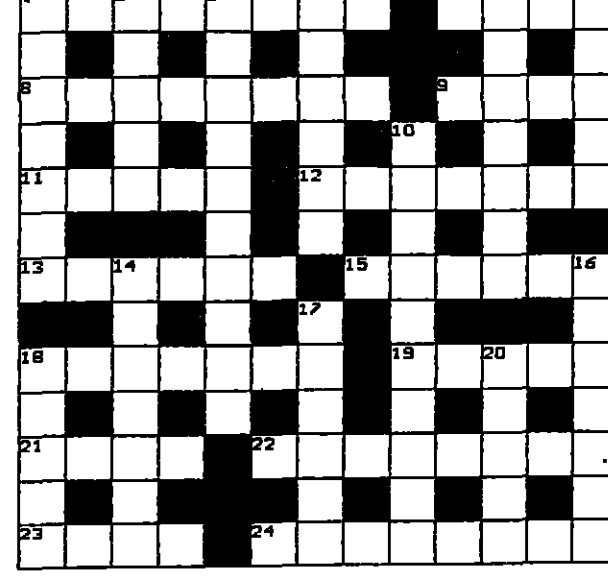
David Mellor, the chairman of the Football Task Force and one of Hoddle's biggest critics, said that "English football was being dragged down by Glenn Hoddle's bizarre beliefs".

"I take no pleasure in the demise of Glenn Hoddle, but I do not think he gave the FA any choice. His personal beliefs have become inextricably linked with his job."

For Gordon Taylor, the chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, the players' union, the question of Hoddle's departure from the England job was not a matter for debate — only the timing was at issue. He said: "I would have been surprised if he had still been in the job."

Kevin Eason



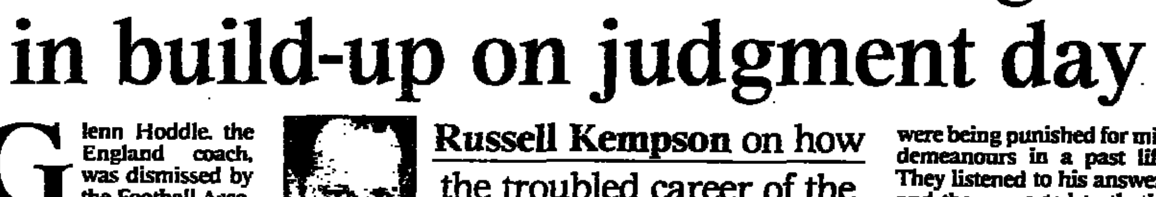


No 1631

ACROSS
1 Unthinking (reaction)(4-4)
5 Comb (wool): ticket (4)
8 Indefatigable (8)
9 Caesar's France (4)
11 — Flashman: pester, ravage (5)
12 Clothes for washing (7)
13 Constricted (6)
15 Edible bit of nut (6)
18 Blockade (town)(7)
19 Rustic lover (5)
21 Eloquently deceptive (4)
22 Undeviating (8)
23 Outhouse; drop (4)
24 Sensible caution (8)

DOWN
1 Food preparation area (7)
2 Mistake (5)
3 Pirate's flag (5,5)
4 (Good)outcome (6)
6 Forsake (7)
7 Hold up (5)
10 NE Aussie state (10)
14 Fidgety, ill at ease (7)
16 Crescent-shaped recess; dome light (7)
17 One putting up game (6)
18 Counterfeit (5)
20 An inert gas, element no. 18 (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1630
ACROSS: 1 Beside 4 Feud 9 Piano 10 Hearsay 11 Driller 12 Toxin 13 White-collar 17 Haver 19 Aladdin 22 Whiting 23 Samba 24 Ruse 25 Keynes
DOWN: 1 Biped 2 Slavish 3 Drool 5 Essex 6 Drying 7 Short-change 8 Pastel 14 Turgid 15 Abdomen 16 Shower 18 Veins 20 Aisle 21 Nears



FA offers farce and intrigue in build-up on judgment day



Russell Kempson on how the troubled career of the national coach was ended

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, was dismissed by the Football Association last night — only the second manager of the national team to lose his job in such a manner. After a day of meetings, and discussions and negotiations between FA officials and Hoddle and his advisers, the termination of his contract was announced by David Davies, an executive director of the FA, at 6.55pm.

Davies read from a statement and would not take questions. He said: "After more than 24 hours of meetings and discussions, it has become apparent to all concerned that this was the right decision for England. The FA and Glenn Hoddle have agreed to terminate Glenn's contract. The position had become untenable.

"He accepts that he made an error of judgment and he has apologised. It has been painful for everyone over the past few days but that is nothing compared to the offence caused to disabled people. We accept that this wasn't Glenn's intent."

At that moment, Davies was interrupted by a fan, wearing a Liverpool away shirt, who had sneaked into the room. "We want Hoddle out," he shouted, before being wrestled to the ground by security staff and taken away.

Davies, apparently unmoved by the incident, went on: "Sorry about that short intermission." He added: "Glenn has served the team with dedication and loyalty but eventually all parties agreed that this was the best way forward."

It had been a day of intrigue, at times almost farcical, as the media representatives hurried between No 16 Lancaster Gate, the FA headquarters, and the nearby Park Court Hotel. The Fifa fair-play flag fluttered from the FA building in the breeze as fair play, at some discreet location, was decided.

> ‘This was the right decision for England’

At 1.50pm Hoddle had been spotted leaving the offices of his agent, Dennis Roach, near Hammersmith, and the crowd of photographers, television cameramen and reporters flocked towards the door of No 16. "Mr Hoddle will not be coming here," an FA minion said, laughing at the disappointment on the faces of the throng.

The journalists at the Park Court, hoping to catch a word from or at least a glimpse of members of the FA sub-committee that would decide Hoddle's fate, were not amused, either.

Representatives of the sub-committee — comprising Noel White, a director of Liverpool and the chairman of the FA's international committee, David Dein, vice-chairman of Arsenal, Geoff Thompson, the acting FA chairman, Dave Richards, the Sheffield Wednesday chairman, and Davies — were believed to have met Hoddle on Monday night. Their brief was to ask him for his explanation of why he said that disabled people were being punished for misdemeanours in a past life. They listened to his answers and then reported to the international committee yesterday. It was the sub-committee that had met after the World Cup finals, to agree with Hoddle a pay rise of £100,000 to £350,000-a-year.

Once the committee had digested Hoddle's words it is believed to have met again yesterday morning. It then reported to the international committee, which acted on its recommendations. The size of Hoddle's compensation for the remaining 1½ years on his contract — understood to be in the region of £500,000 — would also have been discussed.

Davies finally arrived shortly before 7pm, looking tense. It was he who ghosted Hoddle's book — *Glenn Hoddle. My 1998 World Cup Story* — and it was he who had to make the final pronouncement. "Howard Wilkinson will take charge for the game against France on February 10," he concluded.

So ended a momentous day in the history of the Football Association. In little more than six weeks, it had lost Keith Wiseman, its chairman, Kelly, its chief executive and Hoddle, its national team manager.

